

מדינת ישראל

משרד ראש הממשלה

ארכיון המדינה

שאלות ותשובות - N

N/19/36

מס, 1936

המלך המאוחד - המלך

Palestine Disturbances, 1936 : Questions and Answers

in Parliament

1936 - 1937

מדינת ישראל

גנרל המדינה



Palestine Disturbances: Questio

שם:

מ - 330 / 26

מס פרט: 1121687

04/10/2010

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מזהה פני:

מזהה לוגי:

כתובת:

מ

ארץ ישראל
ממשלת המנדט

מחלקת

מחלקת המידע - המלך

מס, 1936

מס, 1936

N/19/36

N 19 36

740

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

C.S.O.

SUBJECT

Education Bill 1966

Questions and Answers

In Parliament

CONNECTED FILES

NUMBER AND YEAR

N/3/36

10/18/36

SUBJECT

Questions and Answers in Parliament

330 / N

SUBJECT Palestine Disturbances 1936. Questions & Answers in Parliament

①

Question by Mr. Hall - Caine on Palestine Constitution
22.4.36

②

Question by Mr. Marcus Samuel regarding visit of
the Arab delegates from Pal. - 29.4.36

③

Question by Mr. Denville re. delegation to visit
London - 29.4.36

④

Question by Captain Cazalet on Pal. Jaffa Disturbances.
5.6.36.

⑤

Question by Mr. Graham White on Pal. Disturbances
6.5.36

⑥

Question by Lieutenant-Commander Fletcher regarding
the riots in Pal. - 6.5.36

⑦

Question by Sir F. Harris on Pal. Disturbances. 11.5.36

⑧

Question by Major Proctor on Pal. (Riots). 13.5.36

⑨

Question by Mr. Hardie on Pal. Disturbances. 13.5.36

⑩

Question by Mr. Hardie re. boy scouts movement
in Pal. 13.5.36

(11)
Question by M. Gordon MacDonald on Pal.
Unrest (Royal Commission). 18.5.36

(12)
Question by M. Morgan re. Mufti of Jerusalem. 20.5.36

(13)
Question by M. V Adams on Pal. Arab Repudiation
20.5.36

(14)
Question by Captain Strickland on Jaffa Port
25.5.36

(15)
Question by Sir F. Harris re. Statement about
the Situation in Pal. 26.5.36

(16)
Question by Mr. Crech Jones on Arab Unrest. 26.5.36

(17)
Question by Lieutenant-Commander on the Situation
in Pal. 26.5.36

(18)
Question by Lieut-Commander Fletcher on Disturbances
29.5.36

(19)
Question by Mr. G. Hardie on Pal. (Situation) 29.5.36

(20)
Question by Mr. Morgan re. unloading of ships at
the temporary port of Tel. Aviv.

(21)
Question by Mr. T. Williams on the Position of
Officers in Pal. - 9.6.36

Despatch No. _____ from S. of State dated 11.6.36

A.S.
this file has been
opened in C.C.'s index
mm. 16/6.

(22)

Despatch No. _____ from S. of State dated 12.6.36

Question by M. Lewis on the Disturbances in Pal.
10.6.36

As.
Pl. to see (21)
(22) am 17/6.

In 19.6.
Jes.

(23)

C.S.

(21) + (22) with enclosures
for information

ps.

17.6.
(24)

Has H.E. seen (21)?

28/6

Yes.

22/6.

(25)

Despatch No. _____ from S. of State dated 11.6.36

Question by M. Gallacher re. Royal Commission
on 29.5.36

(26)

Despatch No. _____ from S. of State dated 18.6.36

Question by Captain J. Macdonald re.
The Disturbances - 15.6.36

(27)

Jes.

(25) + (26) for information

The title Grand Mufti does not
exist in Palestine; the Mufti
is Pres of the J. M. C. + Mufti
of Jerusalem.
24/6

Collyer
sub. 24/6
1:1E
24/6

see K/65/36.

(28)

Despatch No. _____ from B. of State dated 26.6.36

Questions by Mr. Gallacher re. Gogour.
(Collective Penalty) - 24.6.36

(29)

Question by Mr. Gallacher re. Jaffa.
(Demolition of Houses) - 24.6.36

(30)

Question by Mr. Maxton re. Pal. Royal
Commission - 24.6.36

(31)

Question by Mr. Mauley re. Royal
Commission - 18.6.36

(32)

Question by Mr. Sir W. Smiles re.
Pal. Disturbances - 18.6.36

(33)

Question by Mr. Johnston re. Pal. Disturbances
18.6.36

(34)

Ref. (28) to (33) for
information
S. J. A

10

35

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 3.7.36

Questions & answers in Parliament
re. Pol. Disturbances. 30.6. & 1.7.36

36

Ans. (35) 10.7

(35) for information.

9.7. Ans.
also released 11.10.107

37

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 10.7.36

Questions & answers in Parliament - Disturbances

16.7 (37) Ans.

(37) for information
15.7. Ans.

39

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 9.7.36

Questions & answers in Parliament - Dis-
turbances.

18.7 (39) Ans.

(39) for information
18.7. Ans.

Copies placed in
relevant files. 20/7.

(41)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 17. 7. 36

Questions & answers raised in Parliament.

22/7

(H7)

Ans.

(H1) for information

25.7. A

copies placed
in relevant files
27/7

Ans. to
referred
question

(43)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 24. 7. 36.

Questions & answers raised in Parliament.

30/7

(H4)

Ans.

(H3) for information

30.7. A

(45)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 27. 7. 36.

Questions & answers raised in Parliament.

3/8

(H6)

Ans.

(H4) for information

3.8 A So

(47)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 30. 7. 36.

Questions & answers in Parliament.

(48)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 31. 7. 36.

Questions & answers in Parliament.

(49)

act.

(47) + (48) for information

6.8 B

10.8.25

(50)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 1. 8. 36.

Questions & answers in Parliament.

(51)

(M) 13.8.

act.

(50) for information

10.8 B

10.8.25

(52)

Despatch No. M from S. of State dated 13. 8. 36 -
3

Disturbances.

5/8

(53)

Accl

(52) for information

21.8

A

for

(54)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 5.11.36.

Questions & answers in Parl.

(55)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 6.11.36.

Questions & answers in Parl.

H.E.

L.S.

(56)

Q. 55

Submitted

(55)

2.17.11.36.

Seen by H. E.

7/11/36.

Seen by H. E.

15/11.

(57)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 19.11.36

Questions & answers in Parl.

(58)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 19.11.36.

Questions & answers in Parl.

14/11

In.

7.11

20/11

(57)

C.S.O.
A.S.

(59)

(57) & (58) for information
1-12 A

(60)

3/12

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 26-11-36.

Questions & answers in Parl.

7-12

In

A.S.

(61)

(60) for information
5-12 A

(62)

7/12

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 1-12-36.

Questions & answers in Parl.

8-12

In

A.S.

(63)

(62) for info.

7-12

A

(64)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 8-12-36.

Questions & answers in Parl.

(65)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 10-12-36.

Questions & answers in Parl.

21/12

17.12 Sm.
A.C.S.

(66)

(64) 4 (65) for information
22.12. A

(67)

Despatch No. _____ from S. of State dated 21.1.37.
Questions & answers in Parliament.

MM
27.1.

Sm. 24.1
Yes.

(68)

(68) for information
28.1. A

(69)

Despatch No. _____ from S. of State dated 28.1.37
Questions & answers in Parliament

MM
4/2.

Sm. 6.2
A.C.S.

(70)

(69) for information
11.2. A

(71)

Despatch No. M
3 from S. of State dated 4.2.37
Questions and answers in Parliament

MM
11/2.

(72)

A.C.S.

(71A) for information
A 11.2.

MM
11/2.

(73)
MM
12/2/37. PPA
11.2.

(73)

Despatch No. M from S. of State dated 4.2.37
3

Disturbances: Death sentences.

am
13/2.

(74)

~~CA~~ ~~in.~~ ~~h. l.~~
A. C. S.

~~refer.~~

(73A) for information.

13.2.

~~A~~

~~15/2. 9. A. A.~~

~~16~~

(75)

Despatch No. M from S. of State dated 19.2.37
3

Movements of H. C., Disturbances

(76)

~~CA~~ ~~des.~~ ~~1/3~~
~~(76) for information~~
~~26.2.~~ ~~A~~

P. A.

(77)

Despatch No. M from S. of State dated 25.2.37
3

Royal Commission

am
2/3.

~~CA~~ ~~AC~~ ~~3/3.~~

(78)

~~(77) for information.~~
~~3.3~~ ~~A~~

(79)

Despatch No. M
3 from S. of State dated 4.3.37

Royal Commission and Disturbances

(80)

Act.

(79) for information

A
10.3.

(81)
11/3.

(82)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 25.3.37

Disturbances

(82) 1.12

Act.

(83)

(82) for information

31.3 - A —

(84)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 30.3.37

Disturbances, citizenship

am
30/3.

am
31/4.

In ^{S.L.}
A.C.I.

(85)

(84) for information
S.H. B

(86)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 15.4.37

Royal Commission, Disturbances

mm
20/4

(87)

A.C.I.

(86) for information
21.4. B

(88)


22.4.37

(89)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 26.4.37

Disturbances

In ^{S.L.}
A.C.I.

(90)

(89) for information. A.S.

mm
4/5

(91)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 6.5.37

Royal Commission

am
15/5.

(92)

In. 18.5
A.C.I.

(91) for information.
17.5. A

(93)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 25.5.37

Disturbance

am
1/6.

(94)

In. 4.6
A.C.I.

(93) for information.
A
2.6.

W. K. S. S.

4.6

(95)

Despatch No. — from S. of State dated 4.6.37

Disturbances, Royal Commission, Jewish
Settlement in Trans Jordan

am
8/6

(96)

ACI

(95)

for information.

Seen by the A.C.S.


10.6.

N/19/36

R. ~~25/7~~ 30/7

R. 3/8

" 20/8

Pa. T. 14/11

R. ~~30/11~~ 20/11

A. 27.1.37

W. 4.2.37

Ruthi Bay 10.2

Ruthi Bay 73.2

Ruthi Bay 24.2

Ruthi Bay 2.3.37

" " 9.3.

" " 30.3.

" " 5/4

" " 20/4

N / 19 / 36

GER. 447-16,000 44-30

Ruthi Bey

4.5.37

14.5.

31.5

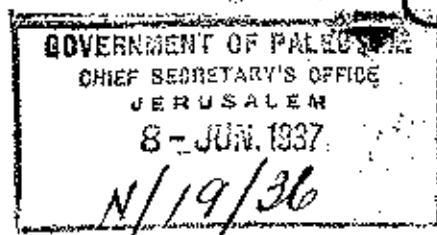
8.6.

M
3

Copies sent to H.E. & A.C.F.

Seen by the Chief Secretary

AIR MAIL



95

The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~

PALESTINE

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}_{late} session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

4th June, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
2 nd June 1937.	Col. Wedgwood.	Mr. Ormsby-Gore.	(95a) Disturbances.
24 th May 1937.	Mr. Mander.	Mr. T. Williams.	b Royal Commission...
2 nd June 1937.	- Do. -	Mr. Ormsby-Gore.	c - Do. -
3 rd June 1937.	- Do. -	- Do. -	d Developments. Expenditure

P.T.O.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
HIGH COMMISSIONER 2nd June 1937.	Col. Wedgwood.	Mr. Grimsby - Gore.	(95d) Jewish Settlement in Trans-Jordan.

AIR MAIL

TRANS-JORDAN
(95d)

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 2ND JUNE 1937.

x

x

x

33. COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Emir Abdullah has been carrying on negotiations with the Colonial Office or His Majesty's Government concerning the admission of Jewish immigrants to Trans-Jordan; and, if so, can any results be given?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative; the second part therefore does not arise.

x

x

x

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 3RD JUNE, 1937.

63. MR. MANDER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will consider the advisability, in view of the existing situation in Palestine, of making use of Government subsidies and reserve funds for carrying out road and rail developments, for the extension of Haifa harbour, for the stimulation of municipal undertakings by Government loans, advances, and grants, and other matters recommended in the reports of experts?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

(MR. ORMSEY GORE): The Public works programme of Palestine is primarily a matter for the consideration of the High Commissioner whose recommendations are submitted in connection with the annual draft Estimates of the territory. In spite of the serious depletion of reserve funds, due to marked reduction of revenue, and heavy expenditure on security in connection with the recent disturbances, work is proceeding rapidly on certain special road construction, on railway improvement, and the extension of telegraph and telephone facilities, but in view of the changed financial position of Palestine and the uncertainty of future policy pending receipt of the Report of the Royal Commission, I cannot encourage the initiation at the present time of new schemes of development.

722

AIR MAIL

95c

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT
OF 2ND JUNE, 1937.

* * * * *

30. MR. MANDER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the desirability of obtaining the maximum measure of public support for whatever policy the British Government may recommend to the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations in respect of Palestine, whether by the resolute maintenance of order under the present system or by partition, he will arrange for the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on Palestine before the policy of the Government is decided?

958

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I am unable to add anything to the full replies which I gave to the honourable Member and others on 24th May.

MR. MANDER: Has the right honourable Gentleman any information as to the date of the publication of the Royal Commission's report?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: None whatever.

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(956)

AIR MAIL

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT
OF 24th MAY, 1937.

* * * * *

23. MR. MANDER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the position with regard to the maintenance of order in Palestine; when the report of the Royal Commission is expected; and whether he can give an assurance that no decision will be arrived at by the Government until the House of Commons and British public opinion in general has had an opportunity of considering the recommendations?

22. MR. T. WILLIAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information to give the House as to the position of affairs in Palestine?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (MR. ORMSBY GORE): I have just received from the High Commissioner for Palestine statistics of cases of serious crime in Palestine during each of the periods 1st January to 10th May, which show that there was a definite improvement in the situation during the month of April and that this improvement was maintained during the period from 1st to 10th May. The figures are as follows:

	Cases.
From 1st January to 31st March	162
In the month of April	40
From 1st to 10th May	10

In the month of April there were four assassinations, one of a Jew and three of Arabs, and one attempted assassination of an Arab. From 1st to 10th May there were no cases of this nature. There has been no case of major disorder in recent weeks, and the only other important incident to be reported is that on 11th May, 196 persons detained in the Farm Labour Camp at Acre under
the

the Crime (Prevention) Ordinance and the Emergency Regulations declared a hunger strike as a protest against their preventive detention. The hunger strike ended on 15th May and was not attended by any disorder.

As regards the second part of the question, it is hoped that the report of the Royal Commission will be signed about the middle of June. As regards the third part, I would refer the honourable Member to the reply given to him by the Prime Minister on 14th April. Until the report of the Royal Commission is received no final decision as to procedure can be taken, but it is hoped that it will be possible for His Majesty's Government to reach their conclusions without delay and to publish them simultaneously with the report. The House will, of course, have the usual opportunities to discuss both the report and the Government's conclusions.

MR. MANDER: Will the Government consider the advisability of publishing the report before they come to their conclusions, in order to enable public opinion, in this House and outside, to express itself on the report?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: No, I think it is clearly the responsibility of the Government to give a lead to the House, in any discussion, as to their views on the report of the Royal Commission.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: In how many of these cases of assassination have the culprits been brought to justice; and does the right honourable Gentleman attribute the reduction in the number of cases in April to increased respect for law and order or to the effect of the law of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth"?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I think to the very energetic measures taken by the High Commissioner and the police, in co-operation with the military, for dealing with the situation. As regards the other part of the right honourable
and

and gallant Gentleman's question, I must have notice of it.

MR. R. C. MORRISON: Does the right honourable Gentleman mean that both the report and the comments of the Government will be available to the House in the middle of June?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: As I made clear, we understand that Lord Peel and his colleagues hope to sign the report in the third week of June. It will then be presented to His Majesty - that is, the Cabinet will consider it. I hope there will be no delay in presenting both the report and the views of the Cabinet on the report together, as a White Paper to the House.

MR. DE ROTHSCHILD: With regard to the 196 prisoners who were on hunger strike at Acre, was this strike terminated by the release of the prisoners, according to the news given in the "Times" three or four days ago, or are they still under detention?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I understand some of them are still under detention. They were under preventive detention under the Prevention of Crime Order. Some of them, I believe, have been released.

MR. DE ROTHSCHILD: That is why the strike is over - because the hunger strikers have been released?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: Not necessarily.

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AIR MAIL

95a

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 2ND JUNE 1937.

54. COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can give any information as to the issue by the Jerusalem police of a communique advertising that the Grand Mufti had saved some Jews from a crowd anxious to kill them; and why they issued so unusual a communique?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: In a telegraphic report which I received yesterday the High Commissioner states that the evidence regarding this incident is conflicting and cannot as yet be reconciled, but that the facts appear to be as follows:

The Mufti was returning via Wadi Joz to St. Stephen's Gate at about 8 p.m. on Saturday when he noticed a car containing Jews standing in the road. The Mufti states that his car companion reported to him that he observed that one of the Jews who was in the car had a revolver. The Mufti, fearing an attempt on his life, instructed his servants to investigate who the occupants of this car were and whether one of them in fact had a revolver. It has not been established that any of the Jews were in actual possession of a revolver. There was no fracas and no one was injured and the respective parties of Jews and Arabs made their complaints to different police stations. Investigation was immediately commenced and is being continued. In a later telegram the High Commissioner reports that the police are fully satisfied that the occupants of the car had no intention of attacking anyone.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: May I ask why the police took the extraordinary step of issuing a communique on the subject and

and why the Mufti has got a bodyguard?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: It is probably necessary that he should have a bodyguard; and he has had one for some time. The communique was issued because most exaggerated rumours of incidents of this kind get about in Palestine, especially when leaders of either side are affected, as they did in relation to an incident at Jaffa, and they lead to outrages and difficulties.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: Why was this case selected for the communique; and why did the communique state that the Mufti saved the lives of the Jews?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: That is not the point. The point is that unless you tell the people what has happened, most exaggerated rumours get about, especially when the leaders of either side are concerned.

attended by any disorder.

868
As regards the second part of the question, it is hoped that the report of the Royal Commission will be signed about the middle of June. As regards the third part, I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by the Prime Minister on 14th April. Until the report of the Royal Commission is received no final decision as to procedure can be taken, but it is hoped that it will be possible for His Majesty's Government to reach their conclusions without delay and to publish them simultaneously with the report. The House will, of course, have the usual opportunities to discuss both the report and the Government's conclusions.

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Copies sent to H.E. & A.C.

(93)

AIR MAIL



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HIGH COMMISSIONER
to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~ **PALESTINE**

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}~~late~~ session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

25 May, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
24 th May. 1937.	Mr. Warden.	Mr. Ormsby. - Gov. -	Disturbances.
- D. -	Col. Wedgwood	- D. -	

P.T.O.

MR. R. C. MORRISON: Does the right hon. Gentleman mean that both the report and the comments of the Government will be available to the House in the middle of June?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: As I made clear, we understand that Lord Peel and his colleagues hope to sign the report in the third week of June. It will then be presented to His Majesty - that is, the Cabinet will consider it. I hope there will be no delay in presenting both the report and the views of the Cabinet on the report together, as a White Paper to the House.

MR. de ROTHSCHILD: With regard to the 196 prisoners who were on hunger strike at Acre was this strike terminated by the release of the prisoners, according to the news given in the "Times" three or four days ago, or are they still under detention?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I understand some of them are still under detention. They were under preventive detention under the Prevention of Crime Order. Some of them, I believe, have been released.

MR. de ROTHSCHILD: That is why the strike is over - because the hunger strikers have been released?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: Not necessarily.

Extract from Official Report of 24th May, 1937.

24. COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any compensation will be or has been paid to the Jewish colony of Mitspa for the 98 head of cattle, their sole source of livelihood, stolen by Arabs and driven into Syria on 10th March last?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I have already communicated to the right hon. and gallant Member a report from the High Commissioner for Palestine which is too long to quote in this reply, describing the circumstances in which the cattle were stolen, the steps which were taken to trace the cattle and to capture the raiders, and the financial assistance which the Government has provided for the owners of the cattle. This assistance consists of a loan of £30 to each farmer with interest at 4 per cent per annum, repayable over a maximum period of eight years, and it has been decided that if the District Commissioner of the Northern District is satisfied that the colony is financially incapable of meeting the interest charges in the first year, the collection of the first year's interest may be postponed and spread over the remaining seven years. The High Commissioner hopes that this will relieve the colonists of any undue hardship until they become self-supporting again.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: In view of the fact that the right hon. Gentleman said that the only compensation given to these people who had had their sole means of livelihood taken from them was a loan of £30 at interest, may I ask whether a more liberal form of compensation for losses due to the lawlessness in Palestine will be provided?

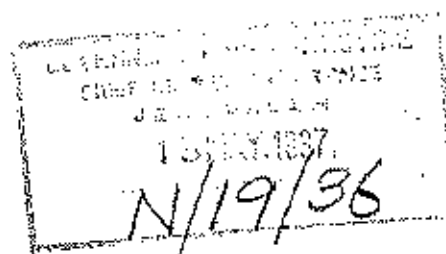
MR. ORMSBY GORE:

MR. ORMSBY GORE: As the right hon. and gallant Gentleman knows, the whole question of compensation will have to be considered in due course, and I cannot prejudice the basis of anything of that kind by dealing with isolated cases. It is obviously a very big question. I understand from the High Commissioner that these particular colonists are not in effect entirely without means of livelihood.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: Has not this question of compensation been discussed long enough, seeing that it started nearly a year ago?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: It is quite obvious that it cannot be discussed properly until we know what the whole and final situation in Palestine is, and we cannot know that until we know what the report of the Royal Commission contains, and the consequences that follow from that report.

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Downing Street,

6th May, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
20 th April 1937.	Mr. Warden.	Prime Minister.	912 Royal Commission.

P.T.O.

91a

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

20th APRIL, 1937.

* * * *

45. MR. MANDER asked the Prime Minister whether he will give an assurance that the report of the Royal Commission on Palestine will be made available to Members of this House in priority to any other bodies or persons outside the Cabinet?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. BALDWIN): The honourable Member will realise that when the report of the Royal Commission on Palestine is received it must be made available in strict confidence not only to Members of the Cabinet but to various officials, but I can assure him that, in accordance with the usual practice, the report will be made available to Members of this House immediately on publication.

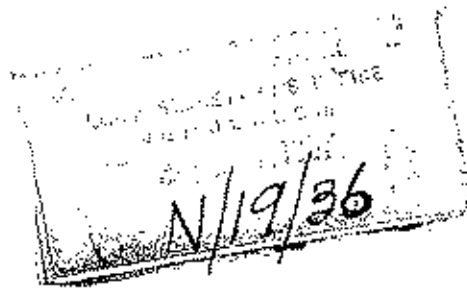
MR. T. WILLIAMS: Are copies of the report likely to be made available to honourable Members before the Government have definitely reached their conclusion?

THE PRIME MINISTER: I shall be glad to have notice of that, but I think the answer is "Yes". Perhaps the honourable Member will put the question on the Paper. The report will be issued immediately.

* * * *

AIR MAIL

(89)



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Downing Street,

26th April, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
26 th April 1937.	Mr. Messer.	Mr. Ormsby Gore.	(89a) Disturbances.

P.T.O.

AIR MAIL

89a

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 22ND APRIL 1937.

Mr. Messer asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many Jews have been killed and how many wounded as a result of Arab attacks each month during the latest six months for which figures are available; and what steps are being taken to prevent further outbreaks of violence?

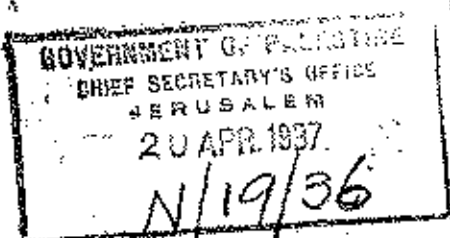
Mr. Ormsby Gore: The figures are as follows:
From 12th October to 12th February, one killed. From 13th February to 18th March, eight killed and 25 wounded; of these casualties 18 were due to a single bomb explosion. From 19th March to 20th April, one killed. As regards the latter part of the question, I have nothing to add to recent replies.

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AIR MAIL

#174



(86)

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Downing Street,

15th April, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
14 April 1937.	Mr. Morgan.	Mr. Ormsby-Gore.	(86a) Royal Commission.
- D. -	Mr. Mander.	Prime Minister.	(b) - D. -
- D. -	Col. Wedgwood.	Mr. Ormsby-Gore.	(c) Disturbances...

P.T.O.

86a

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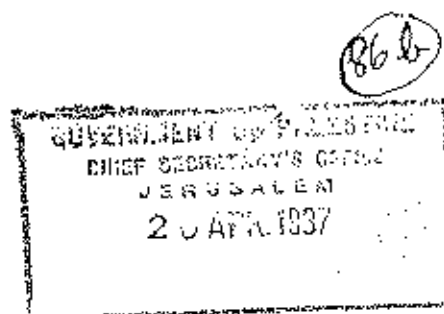
EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

14th April, 1937.

I 22. Mr. Morgan asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can now state the date of publication of the Palestine report?

The Secretary of State for the Colonies
(Mr. Ormsby-Gore): No, Sir.

COPY.



EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

14th April, 1937.

46. Mr. Mander asked the Prime Minister whether he will give an assurance that this House will have an opportunity of considering the Report of the Royal Commission on Palestine before a Government decision is reached on the matter?

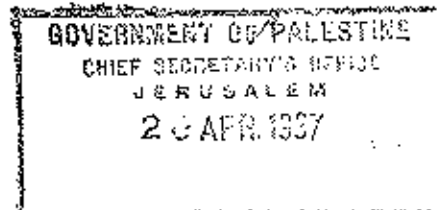
The Prime Minister: Until the Report of the Royal Commission on Palestine is received I can make no statement.

Mr. Mander: Can the right honourable Gentleman give an assurance that the report will be communicated to Members of the House before it is sent to any persons outside?

The Prime Minister: Perhaps the honourable Member will put that question down.

Mr. Charles Williams: I hope the Prime Minister will not neglect to let the League of Nations know.

COPY.



EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

14th April, 1937.

39. Colonel Wedgwood asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information as to the murder of Mrs. Engelhardt, near Petach Tikrah; and what steps are being taken to protect life and stock in Palestine?

Mr. Ormsby-Gore: I have no official information regarding this murder, but I am asking the High Commissioner for a report. As regards the second part of the question, I would refer the right honourable Gentleman to the reply which was given on 6th April to the Member for Wolverhampton, East (Mr. Mander). No murders or attempted murders have been reported between 18th March and 11th April, when I regret to learn that not only the crime referred to by the right honourable Gentleman, but also armed attacks on several Arabs took place.

Colonel Wedgwood: Does not the right honourable Gentleman get reports of these murders that take place? Why is it that he never has any information?

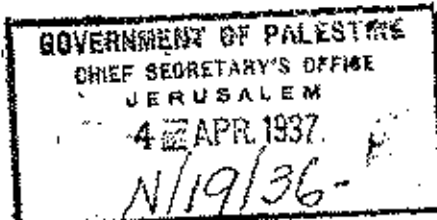
Mr. Ormsby-Gore: Reports are usually sent once a week.

Colonel Wedgwood: Is the right honourable Gentleman taking any steps to enforce law and order in Palestine; and has he still complete confidence in the High Commissioner?

Mr. Ormsby-Gore

Mr. Ormsby-Gore: I am not in Palestine. I am not taking any steps, but, as I have explained in answer to the question, a great many steps have been taken.

Colonel Wedgwood: Surely the right honourable Gentleman is responsible for law and order? May I ask what steps are being taken?

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Downing Street,

30th March, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
30 th March 1937.	Capt. Strickland.	W. Arnoldy- Gore.	(84A) Disturbances.
-D. -	Mr. Stephen.	-D. -	(84A) -D. -
-D. -	-D. -	-D. -	(84C) Citizenship.
-D. -	Mr. T. Williams.	-D. -	(84D) Disturbances.
-D. -	Mr. Commander Fletcher.	-D. -	(84E) -D. -

P.T.O.

Gore

84A

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 24th MARCH, 1937.

* * * *

Captain Strickland asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, seeing that the Government of Palestine recently requested both the Arab Supreme Council and the Jewish General Council to publish an appeal for the restoration of order in Palestine, he will say what was the response from these two bodies, respectively.

Mr. Ormsby Gore: I have no information as to any recent request by the Government of Palestine to the Arab Supreme Council and the Jewish General Council to publish an appeal for the restoration of order. I understand, however, that the Arab Higher Committee have, during the last few days, issued a statement which includes an appeal to avoid acts of violence.

Captain Strickland: Is the right honourable Gentleman aware that the Jewish Council issued such an appeal several weeks ago?

Mr. Ormsby Gore: Yes, Sir.

* * * *

848

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 24TH MARCH 1937.

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MR. STEPHEN asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the remarks of a magistrate at Tiberias to a Jewish defendant that if he were attacked by anyone it was his place to run away and not attempt to defend himself; and whether he will take steps to see that Jewish citizens in Palestine are allowed the same rights of defence as people in this country?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I have no official information regarding the alleged remarks of the magistrate at Tiberias to a Jewish defendant. As regards the second part of the question, I know of no grounds for the suggestion that Jewish citizens in Palestine have not the same rights of self-defence as people in this country.

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84C

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 24TH MARCH, 1937.

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MR. STEPHEN asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state the number of applications for naturalisation by Jews in Palestine last year; the number granted; and the general grounds for refusal of such applications?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I have no information as to the number of applications by Jews last year, but the total number of applications from all sources was 5,444. The number of Jews actually naturalised in 1936 was 4,847. I am not in a position to say on what grounds any application was refused.

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 24TH MARCH 1937.

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37. MR. T. WILLIAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, apart from the Government communiqué issued in Palestine by the Officer Administering the Government, on 10th February, which records a conversation between the High Commissioner and the Mufti of Jerusalem and two other members of the Arab supreme committee, the Mufti or any other member of the Arab supreme committee has publicly condemned the recent murders and crimes of violence which are taking place in Palestine?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I have been informed that the Arab Higher Committee have recently issued a statement containing an appeal to avoid acts of violence.

MR. WILLIAMS: Have there been any further crimes of violence or murders since the publication of this appeal?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I am afraid so.

MR. CROSSLEY: Has my right honourable Friend any reason to suppose that the Arab Higher Committee do not wholly disapprove of the murders that are now being committed?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: As I said in the House last week, I understand that the Higher Committee have expressed disapproval of the outrages.

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 24TH MARCH, 1937.

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34. LIEUT-COMMANDER FLETCHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will make a statement concerning the position in Palestine?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: On the general position I would invite the hon. and gallant Member's attention to the last part of the reply which I gave to questions in the House on 17th March. The security situation in the Southern district is reported to be not abnormal. A large number of arrests have been made in the Northern district, and a number of preventive arrests are being made in Jerusalem. The High Commissioner, who arrived back in Palestine last Friday, was touring the disturbed district of Galilee on Monday, and I expect to receive a further report from him very shortly.

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Downing Street,

25th March, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
22 nd March 1937.	Major Procter.	Mr. Ormsby- Gore.	82A Disturbances.

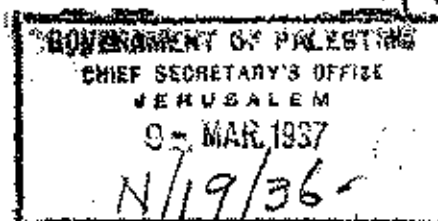
P.T.O.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
22ND MARCH, 1937.

Major Procter asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the recent raids on Jewish cattle in Palestine which have been carried out by Arab raiders entering from Transjordan and Syria; and what steps have been taken by the Government of Palestine to protect Jewish farmers against such raids?

Mr. Ormsby Gore: I am aware that there have been recent cases of cattle raiding in Palestine, but I have no information as to the origin of the raiders. I have already called for a report on the cattle raid on the Jewish colony of Misphah. As regards security measures, I cannot at present add to what I said in reply to questions in the House on 17th March.

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Downing Street,

4 March, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
3rd Mar. 1937.	Col. Sandeman.	Mr. Grimsley. - Gov.	Royal Commission.
3rd Mar. 1937.	Col. Wedgwood.	- D. -	Disturbances.
3rd Mar. 1937.	- D. -	- D. -	- D. -

P.T.O.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 3RD

MARCH, 1937.

31. Colonel Wedgwood asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies why, and with what results, police searched Kfar Saba colony in Palestine, for arms?

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Ormsby Gore): This action was taken as a result of an incident at the Arab village of Kfar Saba on 3rd February, when a truck containing six Arab passengers was fired on. Acting on information received, the police on 22nd February searched six houses in the Jewish settlement of Kafar Sava, three kilometres south-west of the Arab village. The occupants of these houses were suspected of having been concerned in the firing on 3rd February. As a result of the search, one new Polish rifle, parts of another and other military equipment were seized. Six Jews were arrested, of whom two still remain in custody.

Colonel Wedgwood: Will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to have these men released; and has he observed that yesterday the Appeal Court in Palestine released Arabs who had been arrested for having arms on the ground that as they had been arrested after the expiration of the emergency regulations, the arrests were illegal?

Mr. Ormsby Gore: I should like notice of the second part of the question. I had not heard before of the action of the Appeal Court to which the right hon. and gallant Gentleman refers. I certainly will not order the release of these people. They are suspected of having been implicated, and I think the charge ought to go forward.

Colonel Wedgwood:

Colonel Wedgwood: Are we to understand that
in Palestine there is one law for the Jews and another
for the Arabs?

Mr. Ormsby Gore: Certainly not.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 3RD

MARCH, 1937.

32. Colonel Wedgwood asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any comment to make on the official communique in regard to the outbreak at Tiberias?

Mr. Ormsby Gore: I have seen a copy of the notice which was issued to the Press in Palestine on 20th February. I have no comment to make on it.

Colonel Wedgwood: Was that a communique issued to the Press?

Mr. Ormsby Gore: It was issued by the Palestine Government on the evidence given to them by the police and district officers on the spot. I have no information other than the official information.

Colonel Wedgwood: Could not the right hon. Gentleman find out further information; and is he aware that this official communique stated that there was a Jewish demonstration in Tiberias and the evidence was that a party of Jews -----

Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Ormsby Gore: May I correct that statement? All the evidence which I have goes to show that this trouble was caused by a small party of Revisionists or New Zionists marching in uniform.

Colonel Wedgwood: That is the official statement. Can the right hon. Gentleman not get further information?

79A

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 3RD

MARCH, 1937.

Colonel Sandeman Allen asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies when the report of the Royal Commission on Palestine may be expected?

Mr. Ormsby Gore: I have no exact information regarding the date of presentation of the report.

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Downing Street,

25th February, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
74 th Feb. 1937.	Mr. Stephen.	Mr. Ormsby-Gore. (17A)	Royal Commission.

P.T.O.

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY
JERUSALEM
2 - 12.12.1937

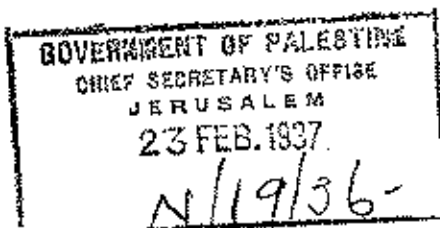
Extract from Official Report of
24th February, 1937.

Mr. Stephen asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his Department has had the evidence submitted to the Royal Commission, Palestine, made available to it, other than through the reports that appeared in the Press; and whether he will take steps to make such evidence available to Members of this House?

Mr. Ormsby-Gore: It is the practice for the text of evidence before Royal Commissions to be transmitted to Departments for printing and for no other purpose, and I have not read any of the evidence of the Palestine Royal Commission myself. I shall no doubt receive the printed evidence from the Royal Commission when their report is issued. As regards the second part of the question, I would invite reference to the reply which I gave on 27th January to the hon. and gallant Member for Hitchin (Sir A. Wilson).

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(75)

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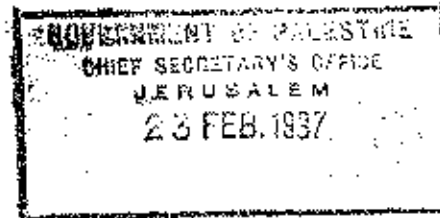
to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

19th February, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
18 th Feb. 1937.	Mr. McGowan.	Mr. Dransky - Gore.	(75A) Movements of High Commissioners.
-D:-	-D:-	-D:-	(75B) Disturbances.

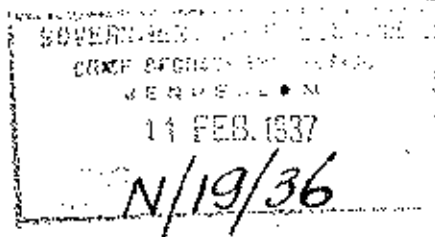
P.T.O.



Extract from Official Report of
18th February, 1937.

MR. McGOVERN asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has been able to trace any money sent from foreign sources to organisations or individuals in Palestine which has been used to stir up rioting between Arabs and Jews and for terroristic purposes; and, if so, from what foreign countries such moneys were supplied?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I am not able to add anything on this subject to the reply which I gave on 3rd November to the right hon. Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme (Colonel Wedgwood).



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Downing Street,

4th February, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
7 th Jan. 1937.	Mr. Moff. (for Mr. Pitt.)	Mr. Grimsby Gore.	Disturbances: Death Sentences.

P.T.O.

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73A

Extract from Official Report of
27th January, 1937.

20. MR. MUFF (for MR. PHITT) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that under the emergency legislation in force in Palestine six young Arabs from the Nablus and Tulkarem regions have been sentenced to death; whether the Supreme Court recommended any of the condemned persons to mercy; what action has been taken by the High Commissioner in the matter; and whether he will recommend to the High Commissioner that, in the interests of the general appeasement in Palestine, these death sentences be commuted?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I am not sure to which particular cases the hon. and learned Member refers, but I am aware that there has been a number of convictions on capital charges arising out of the Palestine disturbances of last year. In two cases petition has been made for special leave to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. As regards the second part of the question I have no information. As regards the third and fourth parts, I have no doubt that the High Commissioner, to whom the prerogative of mercy is delegated, will take all relevant circumstances fully into account in reaching a decision whether or not to exercise clemency in any of these cases.

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Downing Street,

4th February, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
7/1A 4 th February 1937.	W. Hall-Gane	W. Ormsby- Gore.	Royal Commission.

P.T.O.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 3RD FEBRUARY, 1937.

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25. MR HALL-CAINE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any arrangements will be made by the Royal Commission on Palestine to hear evidence in this country from himself and other persons having special experience of, or connection with, that mandated territory?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I would invite the attention of my hon. Friend to the reply which I gave on 3rd November last to the question addressed to me by the right hon. and gallant Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme (Colonel Wedgwood). As I then pointed out, the matter is entirely one for the Royal Commission itself.

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GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
4 - FEB. 1937.
N/19/36.

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Downing Street,

28th January, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
7 th Jan: 1937.	Sir A. Wilson.	Mr. Brinsley - - Gov.	Royal Commission. ... Report.

69a

P.T.O.

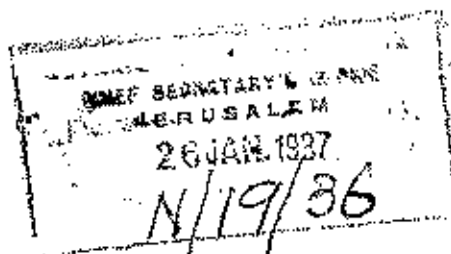
69
GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
4 - FEB. 1937

Extract from Official Report of
27th January, 1937.

SIR A. WILSON asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, and, if so, when, it is proposed to publish the evidence hitherto tendered to the Royal Commission on Palestine?

MR. OMSBY GORE: It is probable that the evidence given before the Royal Commission in open session will be published simultaneously with the Commission's report, but it is not possible to make any definite statement until the report of the Commission and the evidence are in the hands of His Majesty's Government. It is obviously undesirable to republish the evidence before the report.

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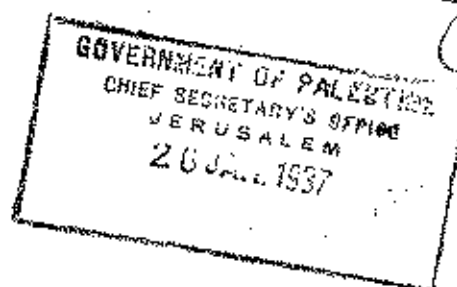
Downing Street,

21st January, 1937.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
19 th Jan. 1937. (67a)	Mr. T. Williams	Mr. Grimsby- Gore.	Disturbances.

P.T.O.

AIR MAIL



EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 19TH JANUARY, 1937.

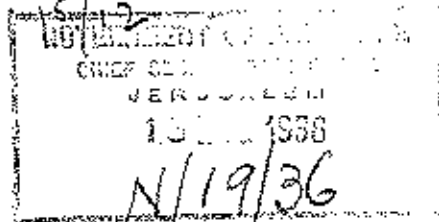
75. MR. T. WILLIAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information to give the House as to the position of affairs in Palestine?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. ORMSBY GORE): There has been some increase since last November in acts of highway robbery which appear to have been prompted by economic or criminal, rather than by political, motives. Special police measures have been taken and a number of arrests have been made. Apart from these cases and a few other isolated acts of violence the situation in Palestine has remained outwardly quiet, although a general state of tension still persists.

COMMANDER LOCKER-LAMPSON: Does Signor Mussolini's Government continue to disseminate anti-British propaganda on the wireless there?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I have heard nothing of any further wireless propaganda there.

A handwritten signature, possibly 'J. H. ...', is located at the bottom center of the page.

Copies sent to H.E.
C.S. 10/12/36
AIR MAIL

The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments
HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~ PALESTINE

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}~~late~~ session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

10th December, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
9 th Dec: 1936. (65a)	Col. Wedgwood.	Mr. Crumley-Gore.	Disturbances.

P.T.O.

659

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 9th DECEMBER, 1936.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many Jews have been shot since the Arabs officially withdraw their active forces from Palestine; and whether any and, if so, what arrests have been made in connection with these shootings?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I am not clear as to the date intended by the right hon. Member in the first part of the question. As I informed him on 17th November, civilian casualties reported for the period 13th October to 14th November included one Jew killed. I have no later figures nor information as to arrests in respect of the period referred to.

AIR MAIL

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF OFFICE
JERUSALEM

14 DEC 1936

N/19/36-

64

The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Office Administering the Government of~~

PALESTINE

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and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}~~late~~ session, which have reference

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Downing Street,

8th December, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
8 th Dec: 1936. (64 or)	Mr T. Johnston.	Mr Eden.	Disturbances.

P.T.O.

COPY.

642

Extract from Official Report of 7 December 1935.

15. Mr. T. JOHNSTON asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the recent insurrection in Palestine had financial support from three foreign Governments; whether any of these Governments are members of the League of Nations; whether any explanations had been asked from, or protests made to, these Governments; if so, with what result; and whether he is prepared to make a statement on the subject?

Mr. EDEN: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The remaining parts do not, therefore, arise.

Mr. JOHNSTON: Has the right hon. Gentleman seen the allegations made by Sir Ronald Storrs?

Mr. EDEN: No, Sir. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will call my attention to them.

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AIR MAIL

62
7-DEC-1936
N/19/36

The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments
HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~ PALESTINE

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Downing Street,

1st December, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
0th Nov. 1936.	Capt. Harold Balfour.	Col. Wedgwood.	Disturbances.

P.T.O.

P.T.O.

(629)

AIR MAIL

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
30th NOVEMBER, 1936.

The following question stood upon the Order Paper
in the name of COLONEL WEDGWOOD:

14. To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the fact that this country spends £1,500,000 a year on a force to prevent Iraq being returned to the Turks and in view of the feelings towards Great Britain as illustrated by their interference in Palestine and the official reception given to the Iraqi organiser of the murders in Palestine, he will notify the Government of Iraq that our Air Force will be withdrawn from that country in the near future?

CAPTAIN HAROLD BALFOUR: Before this question is put, may I ask, Mr. Speaker, for your Ruling on this point? This question makes a direct charge of guilt, or responsibility for murder, against an individual, and, in view of the fact that he has not yet been tried by any court, is it in order for an hon. Member of this House, by means of a statement in a question, to prejudge the possible verdict of the Palestine Commission?

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: May I ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether you are aware at the same time that a price has been put on this individual's head by the Palestine Government?

MR. SPEAKER: When I saw this question it did not seem to me that it was out of order. I take it that the hon. and gallant Member makes himself responsible for the statements in his question.

MR. EDEN:

MR. EDEN: I cannot accept the premises on which this question is based, and I do not propose to make any notification of the nature suggested to the Iraqi Government.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman with which particular item in the question he does not associate himself? Is he not aware that this organiser was received and feted in Baghdad when he arrived from Palestine?

MR. EDEN: The right hon. and gallant Gentleman asked me a question which contained the statement that we spent £1,500,000 a year in Iraq, and I do not accept the implications in that question.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: Does the right hon. Gentleman deny that we spend £1,500,000 a year on our Air Force in Iraq in order to protect that country from Turkey?

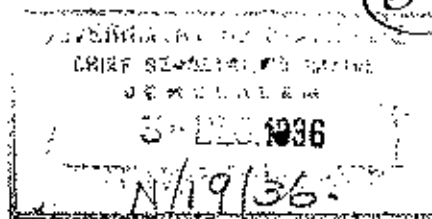
MR. EDEN: Yes, Sir.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: Then may I ask what we do spend?

MR. EDEN: Perhaps the right hon. and gallant Gentleman will put down a question. I merely said that I did not accept his statement.

AIR MAIL

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The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

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Downing Street,

26th November, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
(60a) 24 th Nov. 1936.	Col. Wedgwood.	Mr. Ormsby - Gore.	Disturbances.
(60b) 24 th Nov. 1936.	- Do. -	- Do. -	Movements of High Commissioner.
(60c) 25 th Nov. 1936.	- Do. -	- Do. -	Disturbances.
(60d) 25 th Nov. 1936.	Capt. Cazale.	- Do. -	Immigration.

P.T.O.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
25th Nov: (60 ^e) 1936.	Mr. Pitt.	Mr. Brindley. -Gore.	Emergency Region:
(60 ^F) 25th Nov: 1936.	Mr. Rawlin.	-D:-	Jaffa-Haifa Road.

66a

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 24TH NOVEMBER 1936.

77. COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether there is any information in the possession of his Department showing whether Arab discontent in Palestine is due to internal causes only, or not?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

(Mr. Ormsby Gore): As the underlying causes of the recent disturbances in Palestine are a matter to be inquired into by the Royal Commission, I think it would be improper for me to attempt to analyse them while the commission is engaged on its enquiry into them.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: Has the right hon. Gentlemen received the confidential reports sent him by the air service in Palestine?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I have seen some of them.

MR. GALLACHER: Is the basic cause of the trouble not the promise made to the Arabs during the War and the contradictory promise made to the Jews?

602

~~SECRET~~

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 24TH NOVEMBER 1936.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the High Commissioner for Palestine purposes visiting England shortly; and, if so, will General Dill take charge of Palestine in his absence?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I am unable to say how soon it is likely that the High Commissioner for Palestine will be visiting this country. During the High Commissioner's absence, the government of Palestine is normally administered by the Chief Secretary, and I do not anticipate any departure from this procedure.

AIR MAIL

602

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 25TH NOVEMBER, 1936.

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26. COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is yet in a position to give the House any information as to the disarming of the Arabs in Palestine or as to how far the Jews are now armed; and whether this is a matter left to the High Commissioner to decide?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES
(Mr. Ormsby Gore): As regards the first part of the question, I am not in a position to add anything to the reply which I gave to the right hon. and gallant Member on 3rd November. As regards the second part of the question, this is a matter for decision by His Majesty's Government in consultation with the High Commissioner.

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AIR MAIL

609

Extract from Official Report of
25th November, 1936.

35. CAPTAIN CAZALET asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any plan has been drawn up by the authorities in Jerusalem and London to be submitted to the Royal Commission suggesting conditions for the future regulation of Jewish immigration into Palestine, whereby a fixed numerical relationship shall be maintained between Jews and Arabs?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: No plan such as that referred to by my hon. and gallant Friend has been drawn up by His Majesty's Government, and I am not aware that any such plan has been placed before the Royal Commission on behalf of the Palestine Government.

CAPTAIN CAZALET: May I ask whether the evidence given before the Royal Commission by officials in Palestine is given by them as private individuals or as representatives of the administration there, or of the Government here?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: It is given by them as heads of their several departments on questions of fact. Officials appearing before the Commission are under oath, and any reply they give is their own.

MR. T. WILLIAMS: Will it be made perfectly clear that each civil servant who goes before the Royal Commission gives evidence entirely on his own behalf and not on behalf of the High Commissioner or of His Majesty's Government?

MR. ORMSBY GORE:

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The High Commissioner has already given evidence, and he was perfectly free to give what evidence he thought right in all the circumstances. There have been no instructions from here, and there is no suggestion that there is any evidence on behalf of the Palestine Government.

COLONEL WEDGEWOOD: Will the right hon. Gentleman make it certain that any evidence they give is on questions of fact, and that they do not put forward schemes which they hope the Commission will adopt?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The right hon. and gallant Gentleman knows that the Royal Commission is independent of the Government, and is entitled to ask anybody who appears before it any question, and the witness is more or less bound to answer. Therefore it is not wholly or merely evidence on questions of fact. If they are asked on matters of opinion they are free to answer for themselves.

SIR ARTHUR MICHAEL SAMUEL: Would it not be well to let it be known that unless questions are asked by the Commission, no suggestion should be put forward until after all the evidence has been taken?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: That is the position. I have been very careful in this House not to give any expression of opinion as to future policy in Palestine.

AIR MAIL

60 E

Extract from Official Report of
25th November, 1936.

32. MR. PRITT asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, seeing that the general strike of the Arabs in Palestine has been terminated, the Emergency Regulations, 1936, and amendments thereof, made under the Palestine (Defence) Order in Council, 1931, will be withdrawn; and whether he can see his way to advise the pardon or release or, alternatively, the trial under the regular criminal code, of any Arab prisoners or wounded Arabs now in hospital who might be liable to prosecution under those regulations?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The question of the withdrawal of Emergency Regulations made under the Palestine (Defence) Order in Council is one for the consideration of the High Commissioner in the light of his appreciation of the situation in Palestine. As regards the second part of the question, any recommendations which the High Commissioner may make regarding the treatment of those liable to prosecution under those Regulations will receive my careful consideration.

AIR MAIL

600

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 25TH NOVEMBER 1936.

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29. MR. RANKIN asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the fact that recent military operations in Palestine were substantially hampered by the absence of adequate road facilities between Jaffa and Haifa; and whether the construction of this road is now to be speeded up?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: Authority was given to the High Commissioner on 30th July for the urgent execution of work on the Jaffa-Haifa road recommended for reasons of public security, involving expenditure of about £77,000 in addition to £25,000 for which advance approval had been given earlier in the year.

LIEUT-COLONEL HENEAGE: Can my right hon. Friend say who will pay for the road?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The Palestine Government.

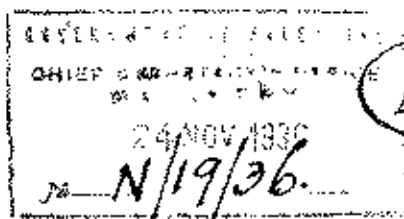
BRIGADIER-GENERAL CLIFTON BROWN: Is not the real reason operations were hampered that they had no mounted troops?

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x

AIR MAIL



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Downing Street,

19th November, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
17 th November 1936.	Mr. Gallacher.	Mr. Ormsby- Gore.	Disturbances.
18 th November 1936.	Col. Wedgwood.	-D.-	-D.-
18 th November 1936.	Mr. Gallacher.	-D.-	-D.-
18 th November 1936.	Mr. Chute.	-D.-	-D.-

P.T.O.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
18 th November 1936.	Col. Wedgwood	Mr. Ormsby- Gore.	Royal Commission.
17 th November 1936.	Mr. Gallacher.	Sir J. O'Donnell.	Garrison
17 th November 1936.	Col. Wedgwood.	Mr. Ormsby- Gore.	Disturbances.
17 th November 1936.	Mr. Gallacher	Mr. Jeff. Cooper	-D ^o -
17 th November 1936.	Col. Wedgwood.	Mr. Ormsby- Gore.	-D ^o -

19/36

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 17TH NOVEMBER 1936.

MR. GALLACHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies the total number of casualties sustained in Palestine by the three arms of the British Forces, and by the Palestine Police Force, since the outbreak of the disturbances last April; whether the British wounded have so far as possible, been removed from Palestine for treatment in Egypt; if so, how many British members of the expeditionary force are now being treated in hospitals in Egypt; and whether he will make a statement as to the casualties inflicted on the Arabs in Palestine since the outbreak of the disturbances?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: As regards the first and last parts of his question, I would refer the hon. Member to the reply which I gave on 29th October to a question by my hon. Friend the Member for Leeds, Central (Mr. Denman). Further casualties reported for the period 13th October to 14th November, both dates inclusive, are as follows:

His Majesty's Forces: 1 killed, 4 wounded.

Palestine Police: 2 Moslems wounded.

Civilians: 1 Jew killed, 3 Christian Arabs wounded,
2 Moslems killed and 4 wounded.

As regards the second and third parts of the question, I understand that until the end of September all British wounded were treated in Palestine, but that during October a number of sick and wounded were evacuated to Egypt.

Extract from Official Report of 18th November,
1936.

16. COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what were the circumstances under which Sir Michael McDonnell retired from the office of Chief Justice in Palestine; and will his successor, Mr. Trusted, take the Oath of Allegiance to His Majesty on appointment?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: On 21st October the Chief Justice of Palestine made the following statement in Court:

"His Majesty has been pleased to approve of my retirement on pension with effect from the expiration of my forthcoming leave.

The Secretary of State has consented to meet my convenience by allowing me, pending my departure from Palestine, to be relieved from the performance of my official duties other than those which are expressly required by statute to be performed by the Chief Justice in person".

As regards the second part of the question, the new Chief Justice of Palestine will, like his predecessor, take the Oath of Allegiance and the Judicial Oath in the usual forms.

Extract from Official Report of the 18th
November, 1936.

14. MR. GALLACHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that during the recent disturbances in Palestine not only were many towns and villages subjected to the payment of collective fines but villages were bombed from the air and individual houses were blown up with dynamite; how many houses were so dynamited and why was this practice resorted to; and how many casualties were caused by the bombing and dynamiting operations?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES:
(Mr. Ormsby Gore): I have ascertained that the allegation that villages were bombed from the air during the recent disorders in Palestine is quite untrue. As a punitive measure, 93 houses were demolished in accordance with the provisions of an emergency regulation made by the High Commissioner under the Palestine (Defence) Order in Council. No casualties were caused by any of these demolitions.

Extract from Official Report of the 18th
November, 1936.

18. MR. CHATER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any, and what proportion, of the cost of the Jewish forces enrolled in connection with the Palestine disturbances is to be borne out of the Zionist organisation's funds?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: In connection with the recent disorders in Palestine special arrangements were made by the Palestine Government with the Jewish Agency for Palestine whereby the recurrent expenses of supernumerary constables enrolled for the closer defence of Jewish settlements and for additional policing of Tel Aviv were to be shared equally between the Government and the communities concerned. The whole of the capital cost, for example, uniforms, equipment, arms and ammunition, is being borne by the Palestine Government.

Extract from Official Report of the 18th
November, 1936.

20. COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the Royal Commission are prevented by their terms of reference from inquiring into the inefficiency of the Palestine administration in suppressing the disorders; and whether he will take steps to rectify this omission?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

17TH NOVEMBER, 1936.

60. Mr. GALLACHER asked the Secretary of State for War the total cost to date of the British military expedition to Palestine; whether the additional cost of the maintenance of the British naval, military, and air forces despatched to Palestine in consequence of the recent disturbances will be charged to Palestine or borne by the Imperial Exchequer; and whether he is aware that the cash surplus of Palestine on 1st July stood at the figure of £P.6,411,684?

Sir JAMES BLINDELL (Lord of the Treasury): I have been asked to reply on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies who states: As regards the first two parts of the Question, I would refer the hon. Member to the reply which I gave to my hon. and gallant Friend the Member for the Isle of Wight (Captain Macdonald) on 11th November. As regards the last part of the Question, the surplus balances of Palestine stood on 31st July last at the figure mentioned by the hon. Member, but very considerable adjustments would now be required in order to arrive at the cash surplus.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 17TH

NOVEMBER, 1936.

Colonel WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the reception by the Iraq Government to Fawki, the High Commissioner still holds that Arab discontent in Palestine is due to internal causes only?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I am not aware that the High Commissioner for Palestine ever has held or has given expression to the opinion which the right hon. and gallant Member attributes to him in his question.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT

17TH NOVEMBER, 1936.

42. Mr. GALLACHER asked the Secretary of State for War whether the expeditionary force which was sent to Palestine because of the situation created by the general strike of the Arabs will be now withdrawn, seeing that the strike has now been terminated by the Higher Arab Committee in accordance with advice given by the four Arab kings?

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Duff Cooper): Orders have been issued for the withdrawal of the 5th Division. Further withdrawals will depend on the situation in Palestine.

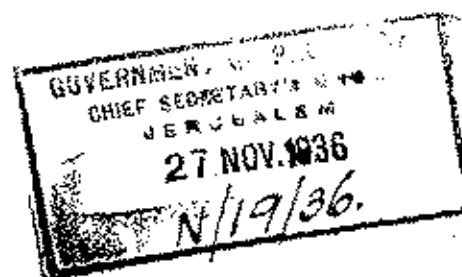
Colonel WEDGWOOD: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether at the present time Palestine is governed by the Higher Arab Committee, or the four Arab kings, or the High Commissioner or General Dill, or by whom?

Mr. GEORGE GRIFFITHS: Is it a fact that a lot of the soldiers wanted to get away as quickly as they could last night because they had had too much margarine?

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
17TH NOVEMBER, 1936.

I Colonel WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he receives all reports of Jews murdered in Palestine; and will he give the figures since the end of the strike?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: Civilian casualties in Palestine reported for the period 13th October to 14th November, both dates inclusive, are as follows: 1 Jew killed, 3 Christian Arabs wounded, 2 Moslems killed and 4 wounded.



(57)

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Downing Street,

19th November, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
11 th November 1936.	Capt. Peter MacDonald.	Mr. Ormsby- Gore.	Cost of Garrison.
12 th November 1936.	Major Dudman-Rodentson	Mr. Cooper.	Disturbances.
12 th November 1936.	Mr. Gallacher	Mr. Butler.	- Do -
12 th November 1936.	Col. Wedgwood	Mr. Ormsby- Gore.	- Do - Strike Funds.

P.T.O.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
16 th November 1926.	W. Gallacher.	W. Ormsby - Gore.	Immigration.
16 th November 1926.	W. Parker.	Major Inyan.	Garrison.
11 th November 1926.	W. Petherick.	Hos. Postmaster - General.	- Do -
16 th November 1926.	W. Porritt.	W. Ormsby - Gore.	Commercial Relations with Foreign Countries.

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Extract from Official Report of 11 November 1936.

19. Captain Peter MacDonald asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies the approximate additional military expenditure incurred in Palestine as a result of the strike called by the Arab Higher Committee; what part of this expenditure will be borne by the British Government; and what part will fall upon the Government of Palestine?

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Ormsby Gore): It is not possible at the present stage to give a reliable estimate of the cost of the reinforcements sent to Palestine, or consequently of the amounts which may fall to be borne by His Majesty's Government and the Palestine Government respectively.

Captain MacDonald: Is the whole of this cost to be borne by His Majesty's Government, or will it be shared by the Palestine Government?

Mr. Ormsby Gore: I answered a question on that point put by my hon. and Gallant Friend; it is to be shared.

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Extract from Official Report of
12th November, 1936.

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MAJOR DESPENCER-ROBERTSON asked the Secretary of State for War, with reference to the list of decorations published last week in connection with the Palestine operations, what were the total British casualties during that period; and whether any despatches will be published?

1

MR. COOPER: I have been asked to reply as my hon. and gallant Friend's question appears to relate to the period before Lieut.-General Dill took over command. The number of British casualties, excluding the police, during the period from 15th April to 14th September, 1936, was 121, including 21 killed in action or died of wounds. As regards the last part of the question it is not proposed to depart in this instance from the customary practice of not publishing despatches relating to local operations.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 12TH NOVEMBER 1936

MR. GALLACHER asked the Under Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that public opinion in India is opposed to the coercive measures adopted against the Arabs in Palestine; that a Palestine day has been observed in many parts of India; that leading Indian Moslems have appealed to His Majesty's Government to terminate the mandate and establish responsible government; that the All-India Moslem conference criticise His Majesty's Government for crushing the aspirations of the Arabs and enforcing Jewish immigration; and whether due regard to Indian opinion will be paid in deciding future policy in Palestine?

MR. BUTLER: My Noble Friend is kept constantly informed of the attitude of Indian Moslem opinion to the situation in Palestine. He is aware that as a result of an appeal by the Council of the All-India Moslem League, 19th June was celebrated as Palestine Day by Moslems in a number of large towns, and that on 26th September a meeting of Moslem leaders at Simla passed a resolution criticising the action taken by His Majesty's Government. Two days later a deputation was received by His Excellency the Viceroy, who took this opportunity of explaining fully to the Moslem leaders the actual policy of His Majesty's Government in regard to Palestine. Due account has been, and will continue to be, taken by His Majesty's Government of Moslem opinion in India on the subject of British policy in Palestine.

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Extract from Official Report

12 November, 1936.

Colonel Wedgwood asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will endeavour to find out from whence the Arabs derived the money and arms used in the disorders and, in particular, what assistance they received from Iraq and from Italy?

Mr. Ormsby-Gore: I would refer the right hon. Member to the reply which I gave to his Question on the 3rd November, to which I have nothing to add.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 16TH NOVEMBER, 1936.

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MR. GALLACHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government not to suspend immigration into Palestine during the period in which the commission of inquiry will conduct its investigation; and whether, having regard to the confidence in the good intentions of Great Britain expressed by the Arab kings, the decision not to suspend immigration at least until the commission has completed its inquiry and submitted its report may be reconsidered?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the reply which I gave on the 5th November to the hon. Member for the Don Valley (Mr. T. Williams), to which I have nothing to add.

Extract from Official Report of the 16th November,
1936.

27. MR. PARKER asked the Postmaster-General whether he will arrange to institute a special cheap flat rate for posting parcels to soldiers serving in Palestine, in view of the high rates now operating; and whether any such changes could come into operation in good time for Christmas?

MAJOR TRYON: I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Assistant Postmaster-General to my hon. Friend the Member for Penryn and Falmouth (Mr. Petherick) on Wednesday, 11th November.

Extract from Official Report of the
11th November, 1936.

74. MR. FETHERICK asked the Postmaster-General whether he will make provision by which senders of letters or parcels to members of His Majesty's Forces serving in countries outside the Empire, for example, Iraq, may be allowed to despatch them with stamps affixed at the usual Imperial rates?

THE ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL

(Sir Walter Womersley): Letters addressed to members of His Majesty's Forces serving in countries outside the Empire are normally delivered through the civil Post Office of the countries concerned, and are therefore subject to the same rates of postage as civil correspondence; and I regret that I am not in a position to arrange for any reduction in the postage rates generally applicable to correspondence addressed to those countries in the case of letters of the kind referred to by the hon. Member. There is no Imperial rate for parcels. The postage is based on the actual cost of transmission, including the varying amounts which have to be paid for handling and delivery in the country of destination, and so long as these costs are incurred I am afraid it is not practicable to make any reduction.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

16th NOVEMBER 1936.

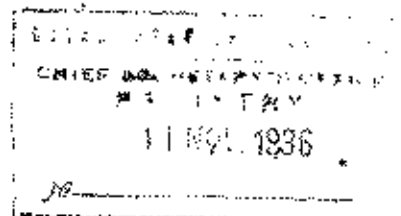
Mr. PORRITT asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the statement of the British Government representative, before the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations on 19th August last, to the effect that only Great Britain can decide whether steps shall be taken to impose duties upon goods imported into Palestine from countries which have left the League of Nations; and whether his Department proposes to take any action in accordance with this statement in so far as existing non-League States are concerned?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I presume that my hon. Friend is referring to the following statement made by Mr. Trusted, the principal British Accredited Representative for Palestine, on the 9th of June last at the eighteenth meeting of the Twenty-ninth Session of the Permanent Mandates Commission:

"The question whether discriminatory action should or should not be taken against particular countries which have not the right to economic equality guaranteed to them under the mandates was one for the mandatory Power to decide in the light of circumstances and of its obligations under the mandates - which of course involved its having regard, as a primary consideration, to the interests of the inhabitants. In considering whether to terminate economic equality for Japan (or Germany) the mandatory Power was not entitled to take into consideration solely the benefits which would accrue thereby to its own trade by so doing or to the trade of other Members of the League of Nations."

As regards the second part of the question, His Majesty's Government do not propose to take any action in the matter as, apart from any other considerations that may be involved, they have no reason to suppose that it would be in the interests of the inhabitants of Palestine to do so.

AIR MAIL



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N/19/36

The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Office Administering the Government of~~ **PALESTINE**

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}~~late~~ session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

6th. November, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
1 st November 1936.	Col. Wedgwood.	Mr. Ormsby-Gore.	(55a) Disturbances.
4 th November 1936.	-D:-	-D:-	(55b) -D:- (Mediation...)
3 rd November 1936.	-D:-	-D:-	(55c) -D:- (Martial law)
3 rd November 1936.	-D:-	-D:-	(55d) Royal Commission.
3 rd November 1936.	-D:-	-D:-	(55e) Disturbances: (Oath of Allegiance)

P.T.O.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
3 rd November 1936.	Col. Wedgwood.	Mr. Dransby - - Gore.	(55 B) German Immigration. ✓
3 rd November 1936.	- D. -	- D. -	(55 G) Disturbances (Strike Funds) ✓
3 rd November 1936.	- D. -	- D. -	(55 H) " (Disarmament.) ✓
3 rd November 1936.	- D. -	- D. -	(55 I) Tot - Arin Hudson. ✓
5 th November 1936.	Mr. J. Williams	- D. -	(55 J) Royal Commission. ✓
5 th November 1936.	Col. G. G. G. G.	- D. -	(55 K) Disturbances. ✓

5501

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

3rd NOVEMBER, 1936.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Grand Mufti has ordered a boycott of Jews in Palestine; and, if so, will this action by a paid servant of the Government go unproved and unpunished?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I understand that there is a movement amongst certain Arabs for boycotting Jews, but I am not aware of there being any evidence that it has been ordered by the Mufti of Jerusalem. I would invite attention to replies which have been given by my predecessor and myself explaining the position of the Mufti and the particular functions in respect of which he receives remuneration from Palestine funds.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
4TH NOVEMBER, 1936.

(R) (55)
N/19/36

Colonel WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies under what circumstances, and by whom were the Arab kings, or any of them, applied to for assistance or advice concerning Palestine; and, as this step derogates from our sole responsibility to the League for Palestine, will he lay Papers?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: No application whatever was made to any Arab rulers either by His Majesty's Government or by the High Commissioner for Palestine for assistance or advice concerning Palestine. Certain Arab rulers, however, spontaneously intimated to His Majesty's Government through the diplomatic channel their willingness to use their influence with the Arabs of Palestine in the interests of peace and were informed, in reply to inquiries as to the attitude of His Majesty's Government in the matter, that His Majesty's Government would raise no objection to the Arab rulers addressing an appeal to the Arabs of Palestine to cease the strike and the campaign of violence provided that the appeal was unconditional. No undertakings or promises either explicit or implied were given by His Majesty's Government, and it was made quite clear to the rulers concerned that His Majesty's Government were not prepared to enter into any kind of commitment whatever. In view of the foregoing explanation, the last part of the question does not arise.

AIR MAIL

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

3rd NOVEMBER, 1936.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies why the disorders in Palestine were allowed to continue for six months without martial law being proclaimed?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: In view of the extensive powers conferred on the High Commissioner by the Palestine (Defence) Order in Council, it was not necessary or desirable to proclaim martial law in Palestine. As the situation developed, however, the Palestine (Defence) Order in Council was amended so as to enable the High Commissioner to delegate to the General Officer Commanding the Forces in Palestine very wide powers for securing the public safety and the defence of the country as soon as the necessary additional reinforcements were available. In view of the calling off of the general strike on 12th October and of the improvement in the situation in Palestine, it has not been necessary for the High Commissioner to delegate any powers, but the powers remain and could be delegated in the event of serious disorder breaking out again.

AIR MAIL

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

3rd NOVEMBER, 1936.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Royal Commission on Palestine will be empowered to accept evidence in this country from Englishmen concerning the weakness shown by the Palestine Administration in dealing with Arab Lawbreakers?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: It will be open to the Royal Commission to hear whatever evidence they wish. The admissibility of evidence and the procedure for hearing it are matters entirely within the discretion of the Royal Commission.

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

3rd NOVEMBER, 1936.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, with a view to preventing disloyal action by officials in Palestine, an oath of allegiance to His Majesty may be required from all persons paid salaries by the administration, whether British, Arab, or Jew?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: It would be contrary to established practice in territories within the sphere of the Colonial Office to require all officials to take an oath of allegiance to His Majesty, and I am not prepared to entertain the right hon. Gentleman's suggestion.

AIR MAIL

(55 F)

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
3rd NOVEMBER, 1936.

Colonel Wedgwood asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has, or can obtain, any information as to the German Government permitting Jews to take 8,000 marks of capital out of Germany on surrendering half; and whether he will reduce the capital required by Jews entering Palestine so that such Jews may be enabled to escape from Germany?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I do not think any useful purpose would be served by obtaining detailed information regarding the somewhat complicated arrangements for the transfer of capital from Germany to Palestine, as I am satisfied that any reduction in the qualifying capital required for immigrants could not be economically justified in present circumstances obtaining in Palestine.

IN MAIL

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
3rd NOVEMBER, 1936.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will endeavour to find out from whence the Arabs derived the money and arms used to continue the troubles in Palestine for six months?

MR. ORMSEY GORE: I am satisfied that the Palestine Government have used their utmost endeavours in investigating the sources of money and arms used for promoting the disorders.

AIR MAIL

554

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
3rd NOVEMBER, 1936.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will see that steps are taken to disarm the Arabs in Palestine without disarming the Jews, who require arms for self-defence and cannot be effectively defended in any other way?

MR. ORSMBY GORE: The question of disarming persons, whether Arabs or Jews, in illegal possession of arms in Palestine, is under consideration and I am at present unable to make any statement on the subject.

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
3rd NOVEMBER, 1936.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware of Arab action to stop the development of a port at Tel Aviv; and will he prevent the Palestine administration from taking any further steps to assist these Arab interests against legitimate competition, namely, by restricting the use of Tel Aviv harbour in any way whatever?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. I am not aware of any grounds for the suggestion made in the second part.

COPY.

554

Extract from Official Report

5 November, 1936.

80. MR. T. WILLIAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can make any statement regarding immigration into Palestine during the sittings of the Royal Commission?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: On 19th June and 22nd July I informed the House that His Majesty's Government could contemplate no change of policy whatsoever with regard to Palestine until they had received and considered the report of the Royal Commission. On 22nd July I also said that, as regards the suggestion that there should be a temporary suspension of immigration while the Commission is carrying out its inquiries, I was not at the time in a position to make any statement as to the intentions of His Majesty's Government beyond saying that their decision would be taken in due course on the merits of the case. As the House is aware, the Royal Commission is leaving for Palestine today and His Majesty's Government have carefully considered whether or not there should be a temporary suspension of immigration while the Commission is carrying out its inquiries. They have decided that a temporary suspension of immigration would not be justifiable on economic or on other grounds. It is the view of His Majesty's Government that, if any drastic departure from the immigration policy hitherto pursued were now to be introduced in advance of the findings of the Royal Commission, this would involve an alteration in the existing situation and might be held to prejudice the inquiries of the Royal Commission, which will be directed, among other matters, to the very important question of immigration generally.

At

At the same time, His Majesty's Government have thought it right in the present circumstances obtaining in Palestine to ask the High Commissioner to take a conservative view of the economic absorptive capacity of the country. He has accordingly recommended that the six-monthly Labour Immigration Schedule, which was due to be issued last month, should be fixed at 1,800 certificates: this recommendation has been approved by His Majesty's Government. This figure compares with a Schedule of 8,000 in April, 1935: 3,250 in October, 1935: and 4,500 in April, 1936. The new Schedule of 1,800 certificates includes a special allotment of 300 certificates to provide for registration as immigrants of the German-Jews in possession of a capital of £1,000 already in Palestine who will have been unable as yet to transfer from Germany the qualifying capital within a prescribed period of twelve months. The total increase, therefore, in the Jewish population resulting from this schedule will not exceed 1,500. It will be appreciated, however, that immigration is not confined to those persons who receive certificates under the Labour Schedule. The categories under which other immigrants enter are as capitalists (that is to say, persons in possession of not less than £1,000) and dependants of such capitalists, of persons authorised to enter under the Labour Schedule, and of persons already resident in Palestine. Taking into account all forms of Jewish immigration, it is expected that the total for the six months from October, 1936, will be substantially below that for the preceding six months.

MR. T. WILLIAMS: Do we understand that the conservative estimate of the absorptive capacity of immigration for a short period is only intended to apply during

during the sittings of the Commission?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: During the sittings of the Royal Commission and the consideration by His Majesty's Government of its report, and pending the issue of their policy for the future with regard to immigration.

SIR ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR: Can the right hon. Gentleman say what adverse developments in the economic situation of Palestine justify cutting the immigration by between 50 and 75 per cent?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The general disturbance of the country and the interruption of industry, commerce and communications.

MR. THORNE: Is the reply to convey that the German Government are refusing to hand over to these German Jews the property to which they are entitled?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: There is a special arrangement with the German Government with regard to this particular category of German Jews in possession of £1,000 which will allow them to get this amount into Palestine. That arrangement is somewhat complicated and has involved delay in these cases. I think that they will eventually get their money out, but these 300 have not got it out in the time normally allowed, and they are therefore to be treated technically as if they were labourers under the labour schedule.

SIR A.M. SAMUEL: Will the report of the Royal Commission be issued before the Commission return to London or only after they come back?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: Obviously it will be after they get back. They are going to Palestine to collect evidence, and I should imagine that they will write their report when they get home.

MR. DENMAN: As it has hitherto been the policy
of

of the Colonial Office to leave the question of absorptive capacity to the High Commissioner, are we now to understand that the Home Government is undertaking the duty of judging?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The numbers were fixed by the High Commissioner as usual on the advice of the technical commissions dealing with the subject, and the figure was not fixed by the Home Government. In so far as the Home Government interfered, they did so only to say that it was their wish that, in view of the conditions obtaining in Palestine, the High Commissioner would take a conservative view on this occasion.

M. 3551 (55 K)

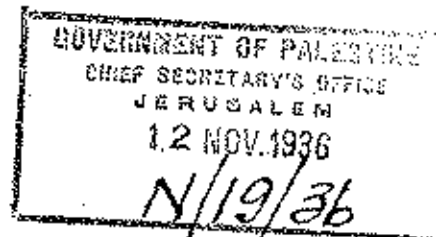
EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
5th NOVEMBER, 1936.

78. CAPTAIN CAZALET asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can estimate the damage done to Governmental and private property in Palestine during the recent riots and strike?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES
(Mr. Ormsby Gore): I am not yet in a position to give any estimate.

CAPTAIN CAZALET: Is my right hon. friend considering the question of compensation to these firms?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: It will be a very long time before it is possible to form an estimate. The staff in Palestine has had a very difficult time.



The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Office Administering the Government of~~

PALESTINE

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}~~late~~ session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

5th November, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
29 th Oct. 1936.	Mr. Denham.	Mr. Ormsby-Jones.	Disturbances. (54a)
29 th Oct.	Mr. T. Williams	Mr. Short.	-D:- (54b)

P.T.O.

Mr. Thompson
to [illegible]
Thank you, Sr.
I have taken as
exact
& reply

✕ ✕ ✕

Civilians.

Moslems: 956 including 187 deaths.

Jews: 388 including 80 deaths.

Christians: 65 including 10 deaths.

British: 125 including 21 deaths.

British: 47 including 7 deaths.
Palestinians: 49 Moslems including 8 deaths; 13 Christians (wounded); 9 Jews including one death.

Moslems		648,000
Jews		370,000
Christians		106,000
Others		11,000

MR. T. WILLIAMS: In view of that terrible loss of life, will the right hon. Gentleman use his influence to prevent

prevent any of those leaders who inspired the riots and caused that loss of life from securing any Government appointments from now onwards?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: Obviously, that is a question which ought to be put on the Paper. It does not arise now.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether when he uses the word "Christians" it is to be understood to mean Christian Arabs? In the figures just given does the figure for "Christians" include Christian Arabs?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The figure includes all Christians other than British resident in Palestine.

MR. GALLACHER: Will it be made clear that the commission will be prepared to bring about a settlement which will include justice for those who - (Interruption.)

N/19/36

(54)

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 29TH OCTOBER, 1936.

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20. Mr. T. WILLIAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information to give the House as to the present position of affairs in Palestine?

21. MR. SHORT asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will make a statement respecting the position in Palestine?

22. SIR PATRICK HANNON asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will make a statement on the situation in Palestine?

23. MR. WHITE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can make any statement with regard to the present position in Palestine?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I am glad to say that the general strike ceased from 12th October and as regards disorders the situation throughout the greater part of the country has improved rapidly. Since 15th October only small isolated incidents have occurred though a few armed bands, including non-Palestinians, continue to be a source of some anxiety in one or two localities. Generally speaking the country is quiet and the people have resumed their normal callings. Steps are already being taken to reduce the number of British troops which have been sent to reinforce the garrison. Arrangements have now been made for the Royal Commission to leave England for Palestine towards the end of next week, and I feel sure that everyone in this House will join with me in wishing them such a successful outcome of

of their most responsible labours that the peace and progress of all communities in Palestine will be reassured.

MR. BELLENGER: Is it the intention of the Government to withdraw at an early date, the reservists who were sent out to Palestine.

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I think that question ought to be addressed to the War Office, but I believe they will be among the first to return.

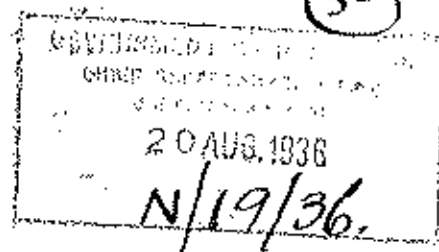
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The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~

PALESTINE

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}_{late} session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

13th August, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
21 st July 1936. 52A	Lord Tennyson	Earl of Plymouth.	Disturbances.

P.T.O.

SLA

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Extract from Official Report of
21st July, 1936.

PALESTINE.

LORD LAMINGTON asked His Majesty's Government whether, in view of the continued disorder in Palestine, they will not suspend, for the present, Zionist immigration which has been the chief cause of resentment; also whether they will give assurances to the Arabs that recommendations made by the Commission, if one is appointed, will be carefully and fully considered and, if possible, given effect to?

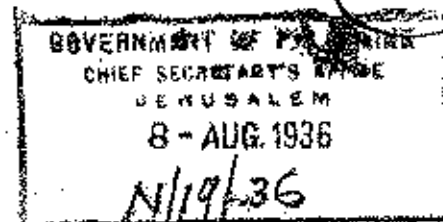
THE EARL OF PLYMOUTH: Questions relating to the general policy and administrative practice of Government with regard to immigration into Palestine are matters for consideration in the first place by the Royal Commission which will not undertake its inquiry until order has been restored, and as my right honourable friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies stated in another place on the 19th June, His Majesty's Government can contemplate no change of policy until they have received and considered the Commission's Report. As regards the suggestion, to which some publicity has recently been given, that immigration should be temporarily suspended during the period of the enquiry by the Royal Commission, I am not at present in a position to make any statement as to the intentions of His Majesty's Government. As my right honourable friend also stated on the 19th June, His Majesty's Government will certainly consider with the utmost care, and will give all possible weight to, any recommendations by so authoritative a body as the proposed Royal Commission, but it will be appreciated

appreciated that no Government, least of all a mandatory power with its special responsibilities to the League of Nations, can divest itself of the ultimate responsibility for decisions or undertake in advance to carry out proposals or recommendations which it has not seen.

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AIR MAIL



The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

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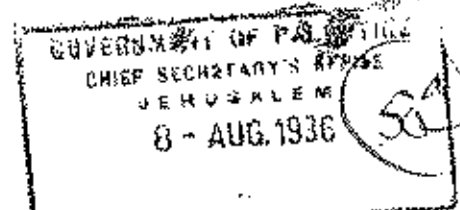
Downing Street,

10th August, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
30 July 1936.	Sir Nicholas Gralton-Doyle.	Mr. Crossley- Gore.	Disturbances.
30 July 1936.	Col. Wedgwood.	- D. -	Police.

P.T.O.

AIR MAIL



Extract from Official Report 30th July, 1936.

PALESTINE.

91. Sir NICHOLAS GRATTAN-DOYLE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can give an assurance that there will be no restriction of Jewish immigration into Palestine pending the investigation and report of the Royal Commission.

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I would invite the attention of my hon. Friend to the full reply which I gave on 22nd July to the question by the hon. Member for Consett (Mr. David Adams), to which I have nothing to add.

Sir N. GRATTAN-DOYLE: In assuring my right hon. Friend that I have seen that reply, may I ask him whether he is aware that it is indefinite with reference to the point at issue, and may I press him to give a definite statement to allay the great apprehension that exists in the whole Jewish community with regard to the immigration of Jews into Palestine?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: In my reply I made it clear that I could not give a definite reply. The matter has not been and will not be decided.

Commander LOCKER-LAMPSON: Are not the Arab troubles largely subsidised from outside, and will my right hon. Friend in no circumstances take his marching orders from the castor-oil king of Italy?

AIR MAIL

(502)

Extract from Official Report of 30th July 1936.

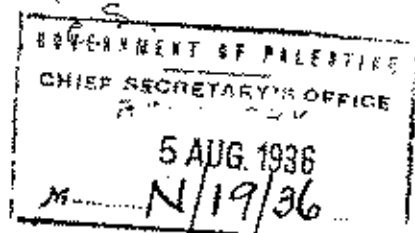
Colonel WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many Jews, Arabs and British are now serving in the Palestinian police and as special constables; are the special constables armed; and whether the Jewish constables are paid out of public funds or by the Jews themselves?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: The strength of the Palestine police on the 31st December last was:

British	746
Arabs	1,465
Jews	365

Since that date the approved establishment of Palestinians has been increased by over 200 and that of British police by over 150. In addition, more than 2,000 supernumerary police have been enlisted, partly for close defence of Jewish settlements, thereby releasing regular police and troops for more active duties. The wages of some of these, but I cannot say how many, are paid by the communities concerned. I understand that the supernumerary police are armed with varying weapons, but I have no details as to the equipment of any particular numbers.

AIR MAIL



The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~ **PALESTINE**

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}~~late~~ session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

31st July, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
29 th July 1936.	Col. Wedgwood.	W. Ormsby. - Gore.	Disturbances.
29 th July 1936.	Col. Wedgwood.	- D. -	- D. -
29 th July 1936.	Miss Ward.	Major Proctor.	Royal Commission.
29 th July 1936.	Major Wilson.	W. Ormsby. - Gore.	- D. -

P.T.O.

AIR MAIL

489

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 29TH JULY 1936.

Disturbances (Restraint of Individuals).

22. COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies why no steps have yet been taken in Palestine to suppress and deport the committee in Jerusalem who are directing the terrorist activity?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. Ormsby Gore): It is for the High Commissioner for Palestine to decide, in the light of his knowledge of local circumstances, what individuals it is best to place under restraint for activities connected with the present state of disorder, and I am satisfied that he will not hesitate to make full use of the powers which he possesses in whatever way he considers necessary.

MR. GALLACHER: Would it not be desirable for the High Commissioner to be recommended to meet the responsible committee and come to an understanding for the settlement of the question?

MR. CROSSLEY: Is there any truth at all in the assumption in the right honourable and gallant Gentleman's question that the insubordination has been directed by the committee in Jerusalem?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: As I stated in the House, I think it rather does beg the question, and I would not like to express an opinion.

MR. KIRKWOOD:

MR. KIRKWOOD: Is this not again a case where the workers were out on strike and were ordered to go back to their work before they could discuss terms? Why not send out a Commission to discuss the matter?

486

NO. 2201

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 29TH JULY 1936.

Martial Law.

23. COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies why martial law has not yet been enforced in Palestine, as it was during similar troubles in Ceylon and Cyprus?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: Martial law has not been proclaimed in Palestine because, having regard to the extensive powers conferred on the High Commissioner by the Palestine Defence Order in Council, it has not up to now been thought necessary or desirable to do so.

AIR MAIL

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

29th JULY, 1936.

ROYAL COMMISSION
(TERMS OF REFERENCE).

MISS WARD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, when the Royal Commission to inquire into affairs in Palestine is appointed, it is his intention to retain the present regulations for the entry of Jewish immigrants into that country?

MAJOR PROCTOR asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the proposed Royal Commission to be appointed to investigate the situation in Palestine will be instructed to ascertain to what extent, if any, the riots were supported by financial assistance from outside the mandated territory?

SIR ROBERT ASKE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will give an assurance that, until the proposed Royal Commission on Palestine has reported, no changes will take place with regard to Jewish immigration into Palestine?

LIEUT.-COMMANDER FLETCHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he intends to suspend Jewish immigration into Palestine pending the report of the Royal Commission which is to be set up; and whether he will now announce the composition of the Commission and its terms of reference?

CAPTAIN P. MACDONALD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what is to be the composition of the Royal Commission dealing with the situation in Palestine; on what approximate date it is proposed that it should leave for Palestine to carry out any necessary inquiries; and whether any approximate indication can be given of the time which will elapse before the report of this Commission

can

can be made available?

MR.ORMSBY GORE: With the permission of the House, I will take the opportunity to make a comprehensive statement. His Majesty has been pleased to approve the appointment of the following to serve on the Palestine Royal Commission:

The Right Honourable Earl Peel, G.C.S.I., C.B.E.

The Right Honourable Sir Horace Rumbold, Baronet, G.C.B.,
G.C.M.G., M.V.O.

Sir Laurie Hammond, K.C.S.I., C.B.E.,

Sir Morris Carter, C.B.E.,

Sir Harold Morris, M.B.E., K.C.

Professor Reginald Coupland, C.I.E.

Lord Peel will be Chairman of the Commission and Sir Horace Rumbold Vice-Chairman. Mr. J. M. Martin of the Colonial Office will be Secretary.

The terms of reference of the Royal Commission will be as follow:-

"To ascertain the underlying causes of the disturbances which broke out in Palestine in the middle of April; to inquire into the manner in which the Mandate for Palestine is being implemented in relation to the obligations of the Mandatory towards the Arabs and the Jews respectively; and to ascertain whether, upon a proper construction of the terms of the Mandate, either the Arabs or the Jews have any legitimate grievances upon account of the way in which the Mandate has been, or is being implemented; and, if the commission is satisfied that any such grievances are well founded, to make recommendations for their removal and for the prevention of their recurrence."

It is not yet possible to state on what date the commission will leave for Palestine, but it is not proposed that the commission should begin its work in Palestine until order has been restored there. When a Royal Commission has been appointed it has complete control over its own proceedings, so it would be impossible for me to give even an approximate indication of the time which will elapse

before

before the report of the commission will become available. As regards the suggestion that there should be a temporary suspension of immigration while the commission is carrying out its inquiry, I am unable to add anything to the full reply which I gave on 22nd July to the question by the hon. Member for Consett (Mr. David Adams).

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman what are the grounds for this humiliating and almost insulting exclusion of Members of this House from the Royal Commission; whether there is any precedent for the exclusion of Members of this Honourable House from a Royal Commission; and, further, why is the House of Lords contributing as chairman one whose record and convictions are so strikingly Moslem?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I resent very strongly the suggestion that any member of this commission is either pro-Jewish or pro-Arab, or anti-Jewish or anti-Arab. Lord Peel has served the State in many offices, and because he happens in the course of a long public career of undoubted impartiality to have served once in the India Office, it is a most unfair suggestion to be made by the right hon. and gallant Gentleman. With regard to the representation of Members of Parliament, I did think it most desirable that it should not be suspected either by Arabs or Jews that there was any political aspect in the matter of a commission of this kind. There are many precedents in the case of commissions of this kind in this delicate work for not including Members of Parliament, because if one includes Members of Parliament one has to include representatives of all parties, and that would make the commission unduly large.

MISS RATHBONE

MISS RATHBONE: Does the right hon. Gentleman not consider that some of the reasons for disaffection in Palestine may be connected with the conditions of women, and does he not think it would be desirable to appoint a woman member of the commission? If he is not going to appoint a woman member of the commission, will he not at least undertake to appoint a woman as technical expert connected with the commission, so that half of the Palestinian population may ^{not} be left wholly out of account?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I am satisfied that the Women's Arab Committee will be willing to give evidence before the commission. Some weeks ago in the House I gave the reasons why, on inquiry of the High Commissioner, it was considered undesirable to appoint a woman on the commission. There were reasons of religious sentiment which I do not share, but those being the feelings of, not, I will say, a majority but of some persons in Palestine, I did not want to prejudice the work of the commission by causing offence to anybody.

MR. ATTLEE: Have any members of the commission any acquaintance with questions of labour and wages, seeing that one of the particular difficulties in Palestine is the question of wages and conditions of employment between Arabs and Jews?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: Sir Harold Morris is chairman of the Industrial Court, and his recent work has been almost entirely concerned with industrial questions affecting employers and employes in relation to wages. Similarly, Sir Morris Carter's record is very largely that of an expert in land questions.

MR. LENNOX-BOYD: May I ask whether, if the
commission

commission issues an interim report recommending, for example, a temporary cessation of immigration, it may be possible for the Government to take action on that interim report?

MR. LANSBURY: Has the right hon. Gentlemen considered the possibility that he may offend more people by not appointing a woman on this commission than he would have offended had one been appointed? (HON. MEMBERS: "No!") Yes, there is a very strong feeling about this.

(HON. MEMBERS: "Where?") In Palestine. I would like to ask the right hon. Gentleman further, if he has finally decided that women cannot serve, or are not to be allowed to serve, on this commission, whether he will consider appointing some women or some representatives of labour to advise the commission as to evidence and other matters?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I recognise that it is true that for a number of reasons a large number of people would have welcomed a woman member on the commission, especially the Zionists and some of the modern Arabs, but there are religious-minded Jews, more particularly in Jerusalem, who would resent it very much, and a considerable number of the Mohammedan population would also resent it. It is one thing to give a certain sense of grievance to one side, but it is quite another thing to offend deeply-held religious susceptibilities, and to do so is merely asking for trouble in a country like Palestine.

CAPTAIN CAZALET: May I ask whether either the Government or the Royal Commission -

MR. SPEAKER: We have already had a large number of supplementary questions on this subject.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD: May we ask when this Motion is coming forward?

4801

AIR MAIL

Cop.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
29th JULY, 1936.

MAJOR MILNER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, before finally deciding not to include a woman on the proposed Royal Commission on the affairs of Palestine, he will make further inquiries from persons of experience in that country as to the reality of the alleged prejudice against such an appointment among Arab leaders ?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I have just informed the House of the composition of the Royal Commission as approved by the King. As regards the inclusion of a woman member, I can add nothing to the reply which I gave to the hon. Member for Lichfield (Mr. Lovat-Fraser) on 30th June.

MAJOR MILNER: Has the right hon. Gentleman made any further inquiries, and if not, will he consider acceding to the request made by my right hon. Friend the Member for Bow and Bromley (Mr. Lansbury) as to attaching women to the Commission as technical advisers ?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I really do not think that technical advisers from this country are needed. In Palestine there are women and there are labour leaders who could serve in that capacity.

MAJOR MILNER: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that women were attached to the Franchise Committee which went out to India and that the result was very successful and satisfactory; and will he not bear that precedent in mind ?

MR. LANSBURY: Arising out of the last part of the right hon. Gentleman's answer, who are the persons of
experience

experience and knowledge in Palestine who were consulted on this matter, because a great deal of information on the other side of the question has come to me ?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I asked the High Commissioner for Palestine for advice as to views among the various communities in Palestine and to give me information on the subject.

AIR MAIL

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
5 AUG. 1936
N/19/36

(47)

The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~

PALESTINE

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}~~late~~ session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

30th July, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
28 th July 1936.	Mr. Comd. Fletcher.	Mr. Dransky-Gore.	Disturbances: Strike Funds.
28 th July 1936.	-D:-	-D:-	-D:- : Memorial.
28 th July 1936.	Col: Wellesley.	-D:-	Royal Commission.

P.T.O.

47a

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 28TH JULY 1936.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER FLETCHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any evidence of the contributions by Arab government officials to strike funds; if so, what is the amount of such contributions; and if any disciplinary action is contemplated against the officials in question?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The reply to the first part is in the negative. The other parts therefore do not arise.

42

476

AIR MAIL

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 28TH JULY 1936.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER FLETCHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of Arab officials in the first division of the Palestinian public service having submitted a memorial condemning the policy of the Palestinian Government, Jewish officials will be given facilities for presenting a memorial expressing their views; and whether no more severe disciplinary action will be taken against Jewish than against Arab officials in respect of such memorials or expressions of opinion?

MR.ORMSBY GORE: The question of the propriety of the presentation of a memorial by Jewish members of the Palestine Civil Service is one for the consideration of the High Commissioner. Any such memorial that the High Commissioner may see fit to forward to me will, of course, receive my careful consideration.

AIR MAIL

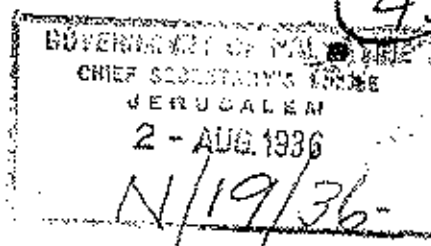
47e

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 28TH JULY 1936.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will give the names of those chosen for the Royal Commission on Palestinian Government?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: As I indicated in reply to a question last week, I hope to give this information to the House tomorrow.

AIR MAIL



The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

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PALESTINE

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and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}_{late} session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

27th July, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
22 nd July 1936.	Mr. Maxton.	Mr. Stanley G. ...	Royal Commission.
22 nd July 1936.	Mr. Com. Fletcher	- D. -	Arabic Officials' Memorial.

P.T.O.

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45a

Extract from Official Report of 22 July, 1936.

ROYAL COMMISSION.

24. Mr. Maxton asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can now announce the personnel of the Palestine Commission and the date when it will commence work?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I hope to be able to make a statement about the personnel and terms of reference of the commission to-day week.

Mr. MAXTON: Can the Minister say anything about the date when they will commence working?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I cannot say anything but what I have already said. The commission obviously cannot go to Palestine until there is sufficient order in the country to enable it to move about the country.

Mr. MAXTON: Surely the members of the commission should be ready to face the difficulties of the task they have taken on?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: No, it is quite impossible to send out a Royal Commission until local conditions permit.

Mr. MAXTON: Is it not because conditions are difficult that the commission is being appointed? Why not send it out to get on with the job, instead of sending it out when the trouble is over?

Sir PERCY HARRIS: Has the situation improved, and is it better than it was three weeks ago?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I say quite frankly that the position is still serious. The amount of armed outrage, shooting, holding up of communications and threats to pipelines is still serious.

Mr. LANSBURY: Is it impossible to reconsider the decision not to appoint a woman on this commission?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: That is rather another matter. I have already answered a question by my hon. Friend the Member for Lichfield (Mr. Lovat-Fraser) on that point, in which I said that I did ask the High Commissioner whether it was practicable, and I received a reply, which I gave to the House, that it would affect the religious susceptibilities of the zealous Jews and many of the Arabs.

Mr. LANSBURY: Would the right hon. Gentleman receive representations on this matter from people in this country who also are acquainted with the facts?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I have received such representations, including some from educated Arabs now in England, but they cannot speak for all in Palestine. Anyone who knows the conditions there knows that people of that type do not represent what is a considerable section of the community.

Mr. KIRKWOOD: Would the right hon. Gentleman consider the advisability of withdrawing the troops?

Mr. SPEAKER: There is nothing in the question about the withdrawal of troops.

Mr. KIRKWOOD: That is the cause of the trouble.

Mr. SPEAKER: Miss Rathbone.

Miss RATHBONE: May I ask a supplementary question on Question 24? Is it an index of the fitness of the Arabs for self-government that they would not even appear before a Commission which included a woman?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I do not think that that question arises out of the question on the Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have passed that question.

Extract from Official Report of 22nd July, 1936.

Arab Officials' Memorial.

21. Lieutenant Commander FLETCHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in view of the fact that a body of Arab Government officials, including judges and administrative officers, have signed a memorandum condemning the policy of His Majesty's Government in respect of Palestine, whether any disciplinary action is contemplated; and whether these officials will remain in the service of the Government they criticise?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I have recently received, through the High Commissioner, a memorial presented to him by Arab officers in the First Division of the public service in Palestine, on the subject of the present situation in that country. The memorial is now under my consideration, and I am not in a position to say what reply will be returned to it.

Lieutenant Commander FLETCHER: Is it consistent with the duty of these officials to submit such a memorial upon events in Palestine?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: No, but I think a matter of this kind is governed by the traditions of the British public service and the Services generally, and if the memorial is submitted to the Secretary of State through the High Commissioner, in the recognised and prescribed way, it is always considered.

Mr. GALLACHER: Has the Minister also received the findings of the judge of the Supreme Court, and are they in accordance with the statement he made in this House regarding affairs in Palestine?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE:

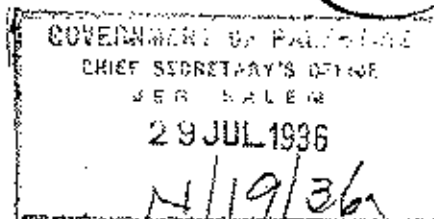
Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I do not know what the hon Member means. I made a statement in regard to the state of affairs generally; this petition from the Arab civil servants also deals with the matter generally.

Mr. PALING: Do we understand that these people have the right to submit this petition?

Mr. GALLAGHER: On a point of Order. I wanted to put down a question on the subject of the findings of the Supreme Court, and I tried to do so, but it was ruled out. Is there any way by which I may do that?

Mr. SPEAKER: If the question was ruled out of order, that is the end of it.

AIR MAIL



The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~

PALESTINE

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

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to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

24th July, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
22 nd July 1936.	Mr. David Adams	Mr. Drummond Gore.	Jewish Immigration.
-D:-	Mr. Gallacher.	-D:-	Disturbances.
-D:-	-D:-	-D:-	-D:-

P.T.O.

AIR MAIL

43^a

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 22ND JULY 1936.

JEWISH IMMIGRATION.

29. MR. DAVID ADAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will assure the House that no change in the declared policy of the Government with regard to the immigration of Jews into Palestine will take place until after the Royal Commission has reported?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: As I informed the House on 19th June, His Majesty's Government can contemplate no change of policy whatsoever with regard to Palestine until they have received and considered the report of the Royal Commission. As regards, however, the suggestion that there should be a temporary suspension of immigration while the Commission is carrying out its inquiry, I am not at present in a position to make any statement as to the intentions of His Majesty's Government beyond saying that their decision will be taken in due course on the merits of the case, and that there is no question of it being influenced by violence or attempts at intimidation.

AIR MAIL

432

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 22ND JULY 1936.

MR. GALLACHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that Communiqué 174, issued by the Palestine authorities reports the killing of a two-years-old baby, a six-years-old child, and two women while asleep in their homes; and, as such people could have had no connection with rioting, will he secure a report of the incidents and the events leading to them?

MR. OFMSBY GORE: I assume that the honourable Member refers to the incidents reported in the two Palestine Government communiqués of the 12th July. The following are the facts reported. About midnight on the 11th-12th July a military patrol was fired on heavily near the village of Qula. The troops replied and later searched a house from which firing had come; some live and expended ammunition was found and four arrests were made. Subsequently, when the whole village was searched, it was found that during the firing a man and a woman were seriously wounded and two men slightly wounded. On the night of the 11th July a police patrol car was fired on near Acre and the police replied. During the shooting a child, asleep in a hut near by, was accidentally killed by a stray bullet. Greatly as I deplore the loss of life and suffering entailed by the necessary use of force, and in particular the death or wounding of innocent persons, it will be appreciated that the Government has no choice while the present campaign of violent disorder persists, and that it is impossible to ensure that no innocent persons will suffer.

AIR MAIL

43^c

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 22ND JULY 1936.

MR. GALLACHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the official communiqué issued by the Palestine authorities on 6th July reports three cases of accidental shooting in one day, two of them fatal, the victims being two Arabs and one Egyptian; that the two shot Arabs were engaged in their normal duties at the time; and will he secure a full report of these incidents?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The Palestine Government communiqué to which the honourable Member refers reported that a watchman at Dilb was wounded in the leg when a British police patrol was fired on; that an Egyptian labourer at Lydda Station was shot by mistake and seriously wounded by a British soldier, and that a Jewish watchman reported to the police that he had accidentally shot near Zichron an Arab who was fatally wounded. I have no doubt that both the accidents referred to have been properly investigated and that I shall receive reports in due course.

AIR MAIL



The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~

PALESTINE

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Downing Street,

17th July, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
16 July 1936.	Lt. Command Fletcher.	Mr. Ormsby Gore.	Disturbances.
15 July 1936.	Brigadier-General Clifton Brown.	- D. -	- D. -

P.T.O.

64/5
41a

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

16TH JULY, 1936.

PALESTINE.

Lieut.-Commander FLETCHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies the total casualties to date on both sides in the Palestine disturbances?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: The following are the figures of the total casualties in the Palestine disturbances from the 19th April up to 9 a.m. on the 15th July:

	Killed.	Seriously injured.	Slightly injured.
1. Civillians -			
(a) Moslems	86	144	336
(b) Christians	4	21	16
(c) Jews	38	79	96
2. Police -			
(a) British	1 Constable	2 Officers	5 Officers
		5 O.R.	23 O.R.
(b) Moslems	2 Constables	3 O.R.	4 Officers
			19 O.R.
(c) Christians (Palestinian)	-	-	3 Officers
			6 O.R.
(d) Jews	-	1 Constable	4 O.R.
3. Army and Air Force	4 O.R.	4 Officers	3 Officers
		22 O.R.	11 O.R.

Civilian Christian casualties include one Austrian killed; one Englishwoman and her child seriously injured; one Englishwoman, two Englishmen and one Swede slightly injured.

Casualties amongst Army and Air Force do not include following deaths and injuries due to accidents: Two other ranks killed; fourteen other ranks seriously injured; and five other ranks slightly injured.

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Extract from Official Report of 15 July, 1936.

PALESTINE.

28. Brigadier-General CLIFTON BROWN asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the possibility that the operations in Palestine are being hindered by a lack of mounted troops, he will take steps to secure some cavalry regiments from Egypt to enable the authorities to deal more promptly with the situation?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: The importance of mobility is fully recognised, and, as I stated in the House, on 8th July, a mechanised cavalry regiment has recently been sent to Palestine.

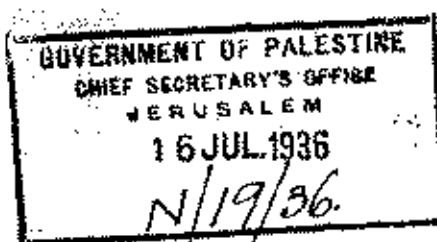
Brigadier-General BROWN: In view of the fact that these operations have been hindered owing to the lack of mounted troops, could not steps be taken to get mounted troops from India or some other place?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: That is a matter for the officer commanding troops in Palestine rather than for me. He sees what sort of troops he wants and applies to the War Office for them. It is not for me to express an opinion.

Brigadier-General BROWN: In view of the fact that the War Office has done away with the mounted troops and has to look elsewhere for them in settling these situations, cannot he get mounted troops from India or Egypt?

Captain HAROLD BALFOUR: Will the right hon. Gentleman send the Cavalry Militia there?

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to P.S. & C.*



39

The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments
to ~~the Officer Administering the Government of~~ *the High Commissioner*
for Palestine,
and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions
and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}~~late~~ session, which have reference
to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

9th July, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
<i>(a) 23rd June</i>	<i>Capt. Banyalet</i>	<i>Mr. Amstutz-Gore</i>	<i>Disturbances.</i>
<i>(b) 1st July</i>	<i>Mr. Short</i>	<i>— — —</i>	<i>CF Italian Propaganda.</i>
<i>(c) 2nd —</i>	<i>Mr. Gallacher</i>	<i>— — —</i>	<i>CF Petitions to League of Nations.</i>
<i>(d) 6th —</i>	<i>Mr. Shuttle</i>	<i>Mr. Eden</i>	<i>CF Italian Propaganda.</i>

P.T.O.

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(39a)

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 29th JUNE, 1936.

CAPTAIN CAZALET asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state, in connection with the figures of the Arab and Jewish casualties in the Palestine disturbances, how many of the deaths were due to police and military, to Arabs and to Jews, respectively?

MR. ORMSBY-GORE: The casualty reports received do not contain the particulars asked for by my hon. and gallant Friend, and I doubt if it would be practicable to obtain completely reliable information on these points at present.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 1ST JULY, 1936.

33. and 34. MR. SHORT asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies (1) whether the Palestine Government are keeping a record of the broadcasts from Bari in Arabic, so that they may be available for any Royal Commission in the future;

(2) whether he is aware of the contents of the messages which are being broadcast in Arabic from the Italian station of Bari; that these broadcasts are defaming the British troops and are calculated to incite the Arabs to rebellion against the Palestine Government; and whether any representations have been made to those responsible?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: Transcripts of some of these broadcasts are kept on record. I am aware of the character of certain broadcast messages from Bari in the past and, as has been more than once stated in this House, representations have been made to the Italian Government. I have not, however, received any report that recent broadcasts have included defamation of British troops, and I am causing inquiry to be made as to this.

MR. SHINWELL: What was the nature of the reply to the representations made to the Italian Government?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: That is a question for the Foreign Secretary.

(39 c)

Extract from Official Report of
2nd July, 1936.

MR. GALLACHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the organised Arab community of Palestine will be permitted to lay a complaint of the conduct of affairs in that country before the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations; and whether the League of Nations will consider the question of withdrawing mandates from any Power whose administration creates dissatisfaction among the majority of the population under their control?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: It is open to any of the inhabitants of Palestine either individually or collectively to address complaints to the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations, and it is the practice of His Majesty's Government to forward all such complaints and petitions when received by them for transmission. With regard to the second part of the question, I would remind the hon. Member that there are no provisions either in the Covenant or in the peace treaties or in the mandates relating to the withdrawal of a mandate from the Power to which it has been entrusted.

39 d

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT 6TH JULY 1936.

12. MR. THURTLÉ asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any reply to his representations to the Italian Government regarding the broadcasts in Arabic from Bari, which contained defamatory references to British troops?

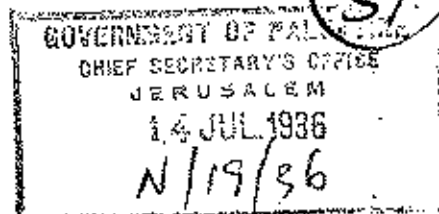
MR. EDEN: I would refer the honourable Member to the reply given by my right honourable Friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the honourable Member for Doncaster (Mr. Short) on Wednesday last.

MR. THURTLÉ: May I take it that the Foreign Secretary is pressing the Italian Government energetically on this point?

MR. EDEN: No, Sir; the reply said that we have no information that the broadcasts from Bari ^{have} contained defamatory references to British troops.

CAPTAIN CAZALET: Is it not a fact that these broadcasts have now ceased?

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#14*



The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

to the ~~Office Administering the Government of~~

High Commissioner for Palestine,

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

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Downing Street,

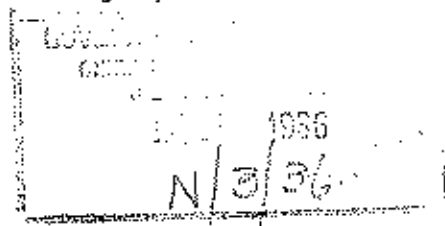
10th July, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
8th July	Mr. Shuttle	Mr. Armsby Gore	Disturbances re.
	Mr. Latham	- do -	
	Lt. Col. Fletcher	- do -	
	Mr. T. Smith	- do -	
	Lt. Col. Fletcher and Mr. T. Williams	- do -	
	Mr. Pickthorn	- do -	
	Mr. Hannah	- do -	
	Mr. Short	Viscount Cranborne	

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
8TH JULY, 1936.

37. Mr. THURTLÉ asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is now in a position to state the result of his inquiries into the nature of recent broadcast messages in Arabic from Bari?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: No, Sir. I have addressed an inquiry to the High Commissioner for Palestine as to the allegation that recent Arabic broadcasts from Bari have included defamation of British troops, but I have not yet received the High Commissioner's report.

P/15/16
#7

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

8TH JULY, 1936.

Mr. LATHAN asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that sections of the Egyptian Press are being used for propaganda designed to foment anti-Semitism on Moslem religious grounds, it being alleged that the Jewish national home in Palestine constitutes a danger to Moslem Holy Places; and whether, having regard to the disturbances and dangers there, he will consider the desirability of causing a declaration to be made showing that the Moslem Holy Places are fully protected by the spirit and the letter of the British mandate on Palestine and also by the Balfour declaration?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE; I am aware that allegations have from time to time been made suggesting that Moslem Holy Places in Palestine may be endangered by the establishment of the Jewish National home. The Balfour declaration contains the express proviso that nothing should be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine; and under Article 13 of the Mandate all responsibility is specifically assumed by the Mandatory Power in connection with the Holy Places and religious buildings or sites in Palestine, including that of preserving existing rights and of securing free access to the Holy Places, religious buildings and sites, and the free exercise of worship, while ensuring the requirements of public order and decorum. I am glad to have this opportunity of giving an assurance that His Majesty's Government have the fullest intention of fulfilling, in the spirit as well as in the letter, this solemn obligation in regard to all Holy places Christian as well as Moslem.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

8TH JULY, 1936.

FOREIGN PROPAGANDA.

25. Lieut.-Commander FLETCHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has now received a report from the High Commissioner, Palestine, on the existence of Italian propaganda in Palestine and adjoining countries?

Mr. ORMSBY CORE: I have received certain information as to propaganda from outside sources, but I do not consider that it would be in the public interest to make any detailed statement. I would assure the hon. and gallant Member that the position is being carefully watched, and that all practicable measures are being taken to counteract hostile foreign propaganda.

K/15/22

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

8TH JULY, 1936.

34. Mr. T. SMITH asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that during the past two years Jewish taxpayers in Palestine have contributed approximately £9,000 towards the cost of the maintenance of the Moslem Supreme Council while the Jewish religious courts and the Chief Rabbi have received no financial support of any kind from Government sources; and whether it is proposed that this arrangement should be continued indefinitely.

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: The expenditure on the Moslem Religious Courts exceeds their income and this deficit is a charge on public funds to which both Arab and Jewish taxpayers contribute. No similar subvention is held to be required in the case of the Courts of the other religious communities. The President of the Supreme Moslem Council has agreed in principle progressively to diminish the deficit by the reduction of expenditure and the increase of fees. The deficit, which was £12,610 in 1933-34, was reduced to £9,520 in 1934-35; and it is expected that within the measurable future the administration of the Moslem Religious Courts will involve no charge on public funds.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

8TH JULY, 1936.

1A/7

24. Lieut.-Commander FLETCHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any statement to make on the latest situation in Palestine?

36. Mr. T. WILLIAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any statement to make on the present position in Palestine?

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Ormsby Gore): While there has been some fluctuation from time to time in the number of acts of violence, there is little apparent change in the situation since my statement on 19th June. The broken nature of the country, and the opportunities which it affords for sniping and for acts of sabotage by armed persons at night, necessarily adds to the difficulties of Government in restoring order. Numerous arrests and seizures of arms and ammunition have been effected in the course of operations, and collective fines in sums varying from £5,000 to £60 have been imposed on the towns of Lydda and Hebron and on a number of villages. On 28th June the garrison was further reinforced by a mechanised cavalry regiment, the 8th Hussars.

Mr. T. WILLIAMS: Has the right hon. Gentleman yet received the communications from the Supreme Moslem Council containing the original proposals of the Arabs and also explaining very clearly that they still support the strike?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE:

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: Yes, Sir; communications have been received. I think the communications added to their original demands.

Mr. WILLIAMS: In view of the continuance of the political strike, involving, as it is doing, not only loss of material wealth but loss of human life, what steps, if any, are contemplated with regard to the leaders who are inspiring this strike?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: We are doing all we can by military reinforcements to restore order in the whole country.

Mr. CROSSLEY: Have not the Supreme Moslem Council made it quite clear that, while supporting the strike, they do not agree with the acts of violence?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: They have certainly said that.

Mr. GALLACHER: Has the Minister paid any attention to the criticism of the Palestine High Court as to the method of conducting affairs in Palestine, especially the demolition of parts of Jaffa?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: It is not the duty of this House or of myself to comment on anything said by a Judge in the High Court, any more than it is the duty of Ministers here to comment on what is said by the Lord Chief Justice or any other Judge in this country.

K/65736.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

8TH JULY, 1936.

26. Mr. PICKTHORN asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Mufti of Jerusalem was selected for his appointment by the High Commissioner for Palestine or elected by his fellow Moslems?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I am glad to have the opportunity to make this matter clear. The Mufti of Jerusalem holds the appointment of Rais el-Ulema or President of the Supreme Moslem Sharia Council. His Eminence was elected to this office in 1922 by a Moslem general committee which was itself elected by secondary electors.

Captain PETER MACDONALD: Is it not a fact that the Mufti is not and never has been a Government official, as has been alleged?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I say that he was elected by Mohammedans, but he is recognised by the Government.

Mr. T. WILLIAMS: Is it not the case that the Grand Mufti does receive £600 per annum from the Palestine Government?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: As I explained before, in respect of purely judicial functions he receives, as do the Judges in Palestine, remuneration from public funds.

W/124/11

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

8TH JULY, 1936.

27. Mr. HANNAH asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any of the houses recently destroyed in Jaffa possessed archaeological interest; and whether the Government of Palestine is trying to preserve the ancient features of the country?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: It is most unlikely that any of the houses recently destroyed in Jaffa possessed archaeological interest. As regards the second part of the question, the answer is in the affirmative. By an Ordinance enacted as early as 1920 a special Department of the Palestine Administration was established for the protection of the historical monuments and antiquities of Palestine, and this Department has been actively administered.

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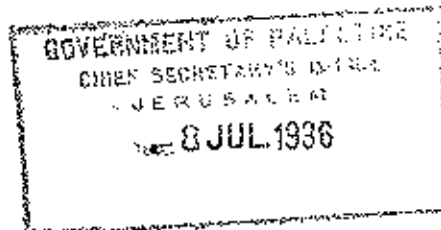
EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

8TH JULY, 1936.

Mr. SHORT asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the nature of the replies of the Italian Government to his representations concerning the broadcasts in Arabic from the Italian station at Bari?

Viscount CRANBORNE: In reply to representations made to them on this subject, the Italian Government indicated that they could not accept responsibility for broadcasts from Bari on the ground that this station was run by a private company; and that there was no preventive censorship of broadcasting in Italy. I understand, however, that they have enjoined greater caution in regard to the matter broadcast.

AIR MAIL



The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

to the ~~High Commissioner for the Government of~~ The High Commissioner
for Palestine

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current} ~~late~~ session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

3rd July , 19 36

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
30 June	Mr. Lovat-Fraser	Mr. Ormsby Gore	Disturbances.
1 July	Mr. T. Williams	" " "	
1 "	" " "	" " "	
1 "	Mr. Creech Jones	" " "	
1 "	Mr. T. Williams	" " "	
1 "	Mr. Maxton	" " "	

P.T.O.

Mr. LOVAT-FRASER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the special needs and disabilities of women, especially of Arab women, in Palestine, and the importance of paying attention to those needs in considering all questions bearing on the future administration of the country, he will include in the proposed Royal Commission women qualified to ensure fulfilment of this purpose?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I have given careful consideration, in consultation with the High Commissioner for Palestine, to the question whether His Majesty should be advised to appoint one or more women as members of the Royal Commission. I have reached the conclusion that although there has been a considerable intellectual and social development, since the British occupation, among the Arab women of Palestine, both Moslem and Christian, the appointment of a woman would be so incompatible with Arab ideas that it might greatly impede the commission in the prosecution of its inquiries; in fact, I am advised that devout Moslems and possibly some Jews of strict orthodoxy might be deterred by their religious susceptibilities from appearing before a commission which included a woman.

7/12/36

Extract from Official Report of
1st July, 1936.

21. MR. T. WILLIAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many of the 1,206 Arabs and 328 Jews, respectively, who have been convicted in connection with recent disturbances in Palestine were convicted for minor offences against the curfew regulations?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: The figures referred to in the question include respectively 331 Arabs and 265 Jews convicted of curfew-breaking.

355

Extract from Official Report of
1st July, 1936.

25. MR. T. WILLIAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can make any statement on the methods employed by military forces when searching premises for arms and ammunition in Palestine; whether civil control is maintained; and whether every step is taken to avoid the destruction of property?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: As I stated in the House on 24th June, the High Commissioner has already promised to furnish me in due course with information on the subject of allegations regarding the conduct of the British military forces in Palestine in connection with the disturbances. The country remains under the administration of the High Commissioner and of the civil authorities. The duties of the security forces as regards search, the disposal of confiscated property, and other matters are defined by regulations made by the High Commissioner under the Defence Order in Council, and I have no reason to think that there is any avoidable destruction of property or that the regulations are not being strictly and properly observed.

30. Mr. CREECH JONES asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the decision of the Palestine Government to destroy immediately a considerable part of the old city of Jaffa is necessary for dealing with the present disorders; whether adequate alternative accommodation for the 6,000 inhabitants likely to be displaced has been found; and whether he will cause inquiries to be made with a view to preventing such a drastic destruction of Arab homes?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: The demolition works at Jaffa, the nature of which I explained in my speech on 19th June, and in my reply on 24th June to a question by the honourable Member for West Fife (Mr. Gallacher), are considered necessary in the interests of public security. I am satisfied that the Palestine Government has taken and will take any steps that may be thought desirable as regards the accommodation of the displaced families, and I will ask the High Commissioner to furnish me with information on the subject.

Mr. GALLACHER: Am I to take it that the Minister is preparing to make the way of the Commission easy by wiping out the Arab population of Palestine?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I must protest against that. Before all these areas in the old City of Jaffa were cleared in order to give access to the port all the population was moved from the areas that were going to be affected. There were no casualties whatever and the operation has been completed without any injuries.

Mr. GALLACHER: Is it not the case that a new great area is being demolished and that no accommodation
has

has been prepared for the Arabs?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: That is definitely not true.
Special accommodation has been provided.

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W/12/1/36

Extract from Official Report of
1st July, 1936.

24. MR. T. WILLIAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what steps are taken by the Palestine Government to ensure reasonable living conditions at the Sarafend concentration camp?

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MR. ORMSBY GORE: I have no reason to think that there is any ground for complaint as to the living conditions at Sarafend concentration camp. Sarafend is a healthy locality where many British troops are ordinarily stationed. The plans of the camp are approved by the Director of Medical Services and the internees receive free rations on the scale approved by the medical authorities. Permission has also been granted to establish a canteen within the camp. Electric light and an adequate water supply have been installed. Among themselves, the internees enjoy full freedom of intercourse subject to orderly conduct, and facilities for daily exercise within the camp. Every facility is given for religious worship, and special arrangements have been made for combined prayer for Moslems on Fridays.

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354
EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT 1st JULY 1938.
CF/

22. Mr. MAXTON asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is able to announce the names of the members of the Palestine Commission?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: The composition of the Royal Commission is engaging my attention, but I am not yet in a position to make any announcement.

Mr. BOOTHBY: In view of the present position in Palestine, will the right honourable Gentlemen consider postponing the sending out of this Commission?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: I would like to have notice of that question.

Mr. MAXTON: In view of the present position in Palestine, will the right honourable Gentlemen consider expediting the sending of the Commission?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: In view of the present position in Palestine, it is quite obvious that the Commission cannot go there.

CAPTAIN PETER MACDONALD: Does the right honourable Gentlemen adhere to the statement he made the other day that in no circumstances would he send the Commission out until law and order are restored?

Mr. ORMSBY GORE: That is the policy.

Mr. GALLACHER: If the right honourable Gentlemen withdrew the troops, would not the position be quite clear for the Commission to go?

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
18th JUNE 1936.

I 65. Mr.MANDER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will reconsider the question of the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the situation in Palestine in view of the continued disorders, and will make it clear that nothing will deter the British Government from maintaining order resolutely and carrying out consistently and impartially the terms of the mandate, and that licences for the immigration of Jews will not be suspended?

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for DOMINION AFFAIRS (Marquess of Hartington): I have been asked to reply. I would ask the honourable Member to await my right honourable Friend's statement on these matters in the Debate on Palestine tomorrow.

I Mr.MANDER: Will the Noble Lord's right honourable Friend make it clear that there will be no surrender to threats of violence on this occasion, at any rate?

Extract from Official Report of
18th June, 1936.

SIR W. SMILES asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the alleged perpetrators of the recent crimes of incendiarism, murder, and rioting in Palestine have been promptly tried; and what sentences have been delivered?

MARQUESS OF HARTINGTON: The authorities in Palestine may be relied on to do all that is possible to ensure expeditious trials and emergency legislation has been enacted to facilitate the speedy trial of cases arising out of the present disturbances. Details of sentences are not yet available.

Extract from Official Report of
18th June, 1936.

70. MR. JOHNSTON asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has yet any evidence to show whether the disturbances and bloodshed in Palestine are financially aided in any way by contributions from sources outside Palestine; and, if so, what is the nature of these sources?

MARQUESS OF HARTINGTON: My right hon. Friend thinks that there is little doubt that before and during the early stages of the disturbances money from outside sources, which are very difficult to trace, was distributed to strikers and others in Palestine, but he has received no definite evidence from the High Commissioner as to the exact sources.

MR. JOHNSTON: Has the High Commissioner any evidence that part of this money came from Rome?

MARQUESS OF HARTINGTON: I have stated in my answer that we have received no definite evidence as to the exact source.

MR. JOHNSTON: Apart from definite evidence, has the Noble Lord any reason to believe that part of that money came from Rome?

MR. MACQUISTEN: Did any of it come from Russia?

Extract from Official Report of
24th June, 1936.

PALESTINE.

ROYAL COMMISSION.

21. MR. MAXTON asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is able to announce the names of members of the Palestine Commission?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I am not at present in a position to add anything regarding the Royal Commission to the statement which I made in the Debate in the House on 19th June.

MR. MAXTON: Surely, if the Minister wishes the commission to get on with the job as soon as it is practicable to do so, it is time he was getting his commission appointed?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I have begun approaching people and discussing who should be the members of this commission, but obviously it would be most undesirable, before I have got all the acceptances, that I should make any piece-meal announcement.

SIR ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR: Is it quite clear that the appointment of this commission is not going to be delayed?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I made that quite clear in my announcement last week.

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Extract from Official Report of
24th June, 1936.

JAFFA (DEMOLITION OF HOUSES).

22. MR. GALLACHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the old city of Jaffa was destroyed without adequate warning to the inhabitants and without any opportunity for them to find suitable new quarters; that recognised holy places were destroyed and dynamite was used, to the terror of the women and children; and whether he will consider a new and non-military solution of the problems that have arisen in Palestine?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: It is not the case that the old city of Jaffa has been destroyed. What has happened is that it has been considered necessary to demolish a certain limited number of houses to enable two new roads to the port to be constructed through the labyrinth of the old city. This work has been carried out, after due warning to the inhabitants, by Royal Engineers, and special arrangements have been made for the accommodation of families whose houses were to be demolished and who had difficulty in finding accommodation elsewhere. Families who have been obliged to evacuate their houses in the old city are being paid for one week a special compensatory allowance. I am glad to say there were no casualties.

MR. GALLACHER: Are we to take it that there was a possibility of someone being injured? How could the demolition have been carried out without such a possibility, seeing that dynamite was used and the houses round about those which were being demolished were shaken by the charge, and the women were terrified?

MR. ORMSBY GORE:

MR. ORMSBY GORE: Full warning on two consecutive occasions was given to the inhabitants. The police entered the first house and moved the people before any demolition began, and until the police and the military were satisfied that all persons had been removed, both from the houses and from the immediate area of danger, no dynamite was used. When they were satisfied that all was clear then the dynamite was used and the houses were cleared away.

MR. GALLACHER: Are we to take it that the police and the military are to be congratulated on having got the people out before the houses were dynamited?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: Certainly; that was the whole object.

Extract from Official Report of
24th June, 1936.

GAZOUR (COLLECTIVE PENALTY).

23. MR. GALLACHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the military forces, when imposing a collective penalty on the Arab village of Gazour for alleged throwing of a bomb on the Jaffa-Jerusalem road, applied rigorous methods to Moslem women, including strict search, in violation of their religious teaching; that the old men of the village were put in custody and not allowed to participate in Friday's holy services; that, following refusal to pay a penalty, household goods, cows, horses, and chickens were confiscated; and whether he will take steps to modify these measures?

MR. ORMSBY GORE: I am not aware of the alleged incident referred to by the hon. Member. The High Commissioner has already promised to furnish me in due course with information on the subject of allegations regarding the conduct of the British military forces in Palestine in connection with the disturbances, and I propose to await his report, and pending its receipt I am not disposed to accept ex parte statements without investigation.

MR. GALLACHER: Is the Minister not prepared to consider stopping the collective fine on the village?

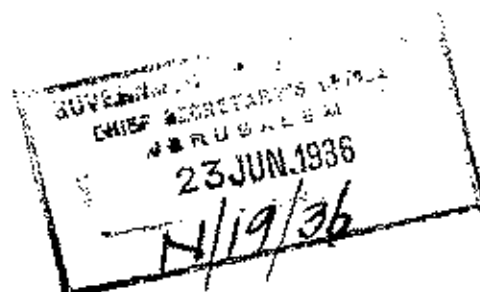
MR. ORMSBY GORE: Most certainly not.

MR. GALLACHER: Shame!

AIR MAIL

Copies sent to H. & C.

H. & C.



The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~

PALESTINE

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}~~late~~ session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

18th June, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
15th June. 1936. (26a)	Capt. P. Macdonald.	Mr. Ormsby - Gore.	Disturbances. copy placed in K/65/36.

P.T.O.

COPY

Extract from Official Report of 15 June, 1936.

34. Captain P. MACDONALD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is now in a position to make any statement as to the causes of the recent Arab unrest in Palestine; whether this is in any way due to propaganda; if so, what has been the source of such propaganda; and who will bear the cost of the additional military assistance which has had to be called in to deal with the situation?

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Ormsby-Gore): The causes of unrest in Palestine will be one of the matters to be inquired into by the Royal Commission, and in the circumstances it would be improper for me to attempt to analyse them at this moment. As regards the additional military assistance, the Palestine Government will bear the extra cost in respect of the various units due to their being stationed in Palestine.

Captain MACDONALD: When will this inquiry be set up and proceed to Palestine?

Mr. ORMSEY-GORE: It will only be set up when law and order are fully restored and the British administration is in a position to guarantee its safety and peace in that country.

Mr. T. WILLIAMS: Have the Government no information as to the cause of the present disturbances in Palestine, and further, what action, if any, is the leader of the Mohammedan population, whose salary is paid by the British Government, taking to attempt to quell the riots?

Mr. ORMSEY-GORE: The answer to the last part of the question is that it is a complete misunderstanding. In fact, it is quite definitely wrong to state that the leader of
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the Mohammedan population, namely, the Grand Mufti, is paid by the British Government. I will contradict that quite clearly and definitely here and now, as it might lead to serious trouble throughout the Mohammedan world if it were thought that the head of any religious community was being paid by the British Government. I have, no doubt, many views as to the various causes of unrest in the Near and Middle East, but it would be most improper, as His Majesty's Government have announced their intention of appointing an impartial Royal Commission to go into and examine this question and to hear evidence on oath, for me to attempt to give my views.

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GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
13 JUN. 1936
4/19/36

The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~

PALESTINE

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}~~late~~ session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

11th June, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
15 th May 1936.	Mr. Watkins.	Mr. M. Macdonald.	Landless & Tenants. See 11/3/36
29 th May. 1936.	Mr. Gallacher.	-D:-	Royal Commission.

P.T.O.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
29TH MAY 1956.ROYAL COMMISSION.

Mr. GALLACHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will include in the terms of reference of the Royal Commission, which it is proposed to appoint to investigate the causes of unrest and grievances of Jews and Arabs in Palestine, an inquiry into the conditions obtaining in the gaols of Palestine, and especially as regards the treatment of political prisoners, whether Jewish or Arab; and whether the Royal Commission will be requested to report fully on the Palestinian police force, its origin, and the methods of and qualifications for recruitment of this force?

Mr. M. MacDONALD: I am not in a position at present to make any statement as to the terms of reference for the Royal Commission.

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AIR MAIL

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
17 JUN. 1936
N/19/36

The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments
HIGH COMMISSIONER
to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~ PALESTINE
and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions
and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}~~late~~ session, which have reference
to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

12th June, 1936.

22
10th June
1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
10 th June 1936.	Mr. Lewis.	Mr. Ormsby-Gore.	Disturbances.

P.T.O.

K/67/36

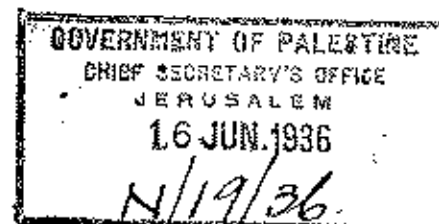
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Extract from Official Report of
10th June, 1936.

PALESTINE.

16. MR. LEWIS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any further statement to make as to the disturbances in Palestine?

MR. ORMSBY-GORE: I have nothing to add to the full statements which I made in the House yesterday.



The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments

HIGH COMMISSIONER

to the ~~Officer Administering the Government of~~

PALESTINE

Copies handed
to P. L. & O. L.
for 16/6

and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions

and Answers in Parliament during the ^{current}~~late~~ session, which have reference

to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street,

11th June, 1936.

Date.	Asked by	Answered by	Subject.
21 st June. 1936.	Mr. T. Williams, Mr. Short, Mr. White.	Mr. Ormsby - Gore.	Disturbances.

P.T.O.

Extract from Official Report of 9th June, 1936.

PALESTINE (SITUATION)

72. MR. TWILLIAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information to give the House as to the position of affairs in Palestine?

73. MR. SHORT asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can make a statement respecting the position in Palestine?

74. MR. WHITE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can make a statement with regard to the present position in Palestine?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Ormsby-Gore): I much regret to report that the improvement in the situation in Palestine referred to by the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs in the reply which he gave just before the Recess has not been maintained. The authorities are faced with a continuing series of acts of violence in many parts of the country. The Government of Palestine are taking all possible action to protect life and property, and further emergency powers under the Palestine Defence Order in Council, 1931, are being issued by proclamation. Since the House last met the troops in Palestine have been further reinforced.

May I take this opportunity, which is the first I have had since assuming office, to express my deep personal concern for the welfare of all sections of the population of Palestine, and my confidence that ultimately

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on the basis of the recommendations of the Royal Commission, which His Majesty will be advised to appoint when order is fully restored, means will be found, within the framework of the Mandate with its dual obligations, to establish a more lasting peace and contentment among the various peoples of Palestine.

MR. H. MORRISON: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether the Government are aware who are the leaders of these disturbances, and, if so, is it not the duty of the Government to deal with those leaders?

MR. ORMSBY-GORE: As the right hon. Gentleman knows, the leaders say that this is a strike.

MR. GALLACHER: Yes, and a justifiable strike.

MR. ORMSBY-GORE: That is their view. It is true that the leaders who are suspected or against whom there is a prima facie case that they have been responsible for crimes or acts of violence, have been arrested and placed in a concentration camp in South Palestine.

MR. T. WILLIAMS: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether the actual head of the Arab population in Palestine is regarded as being one of the leaders who are influencing the rioters?

MR. ORMSBY-GORE: I do not know to whom the hon. Member refers as the head of the Arab population. There is no such person recognised.

MR. WILLIAMS: Is not the Grand Mufti, who was appointed by Sir Herbert Samuel, regarded as the head of the Mohammedan population in Palestine, and is there any information of any kind which associates him with the present disturbances?

MR. ORMSBY-GORE:

MR. ORMSBY-GORE: The office of Mufti in the Mussulman world is purely a religious office as head of the religious court dealing with matters of personal law and religious observance. He is in his personal capacity, if not hereditarily, head of the religious authority of the Mosque of Omar in Jerusalem. To describe him as having been appointed by Sir Herbert Samuel is really, I think, endeavouring to stress the point much too far, and it would be very unwise for the House to draw the conclusion that he is thereby a Government servant.

EARL WINTERTON: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether the names of the gentlemen who are to constitute the Royal Commission will be published immediately, or is the whole proceeding to be held up until this lamentable state of affairs is at an end?

MR. ORMSBY-GORE: My predecessor made it quite clear, as I do also, that His Majesty's Government have no intention of appointing a Royal Commission or of publishing any terms of reference until British administration has once more imposed law and order on the country; until law and order has been definitely restored and acts of violence brought to an end.

MR. H. MORRISON: Is it not the case that the leaders of this so-called strike, which appears to be a political strike, include well-to-do men, some of them capitalists, who are not trade union leaders in any sense of the term?

MR. ORMSBY-GORE: It is true that among those who are leading the movement are persons of all kinds.

MR. GALLACHER:

MR. GALLACHER: Would it not be more desirable from the point of view of the right hon. Gentlemen to grant what is justice in the form of a Legislative Assembly, instead of trying to impose a military dictatorship?

MR. ORMSBY-GORE: I have made it perfectly clear that before these outbreaks of violence began the High Commissioner was in consultation with Arabs, Jews and British in regard to the formation of a Legislative Council, and that he offered to receive a deputation of Arab leaders here in London to discuss the matter.

COMMANDER LOCKER-LAMPSON: Will the right hon. Gentleman do anything to stop Mussolini broadcasting in Arabic anti-British propaganda?

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 27th MAY, 1936.

27. Mr. MORGAN asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the fact that an ultimatum has been presented by Arab lightermen at Jaffa to the district Commissioner that unless the unloading of ships at the temporary port of Tel-Aviv is stopped there will be further violence; and whether he will ensure that there is no yielding to intimidation in this way?

Mr. M. MacDONALD : I have seen a report of the ultimatum referred to. The High Commissioner for Palestine has already taken measures for dealing with any such attempts at intimidation. When three days ago a ship was approaching for the purpose of unloading cargo she was attacked with bombs thrown from four Arab launches, but eventually proceeded to Tel-Aviv, where she discharged her cargo. The Arab launches were seized by the police and the head boatman arrested.

(19)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
29TH MAY, 1936.

PALESTINE (SITUATION).

1. Mr. G. HARDIE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can give the source or the names of those individuals or organisations responsible for issuing inciting manifestoes in Palestine; and whether, in view of the violent demonstrations involving loss of life, he is satisfied that adequate steps have been taken by the High Commissioner?

The SECRETARY of STATE for DOMINION AFFAIRS (Mr. Malcolm MacDonald): An appeal for civil disobedience was published as a resolution at the Congress of Arab National Committees on 7th May. Manifestoes of a more or less inciting character have been issued by the Arab Transport Strike Committee, by leading Moslem townspeople of Jerusalem, by the so-called National Guards of Jaffa, by the Arab Students' Congress and by the Editor of a prominent Arab newspaper. His Majesty's Government are satisfied with the steps which the High Commissioner has taken, and have the fullest confidence in his handling of the situation.

Mr. HARDIE: Has any investigation been made by the Commissioner on the spot into whether any outside influences are getting the printing done? Is it known whether the printing is being done locally or at some outside place?

Mr. MacDonald:

Mr. MacDONALD: I have said in answer to previous questions that we have no evidence of any interference from outside.

Mr. HARDIE: Has the Commissioner informed any of the Departments here whether these so-called scouts, who are under the educational influences of the teachers in those places, are still carrying on the agitation?

Mr. MacDONALD: I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. MANDER: Has there not been a lot of wireless propaganda from Italy, and have not representations been made about that?

Mr. MacDONALD: That is so, and representations have been made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, as he said in answer to a previous question; but I do not think the wireless broadcasts which have been given come under the terms of this question.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 29TH MAY 1936.

DISTURBANCES.

LIEUT-COMMANDER FLETCHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any statement to make on the situation in Palestine.

MR. M. MacDONALD: While some measure of disturbance is still reported in various parts of the country, I am glad to say that the general situation in Palestine has shown distinct improvement in the last two or three days. I deeply regret to say that a British Constable was shot and killed in the old city of Jerusalem yesterday. I feel sure that the House will wish to express its sympathy with his relatives and friends. The High Commissioner is satisfied that the forces at his disposal are at present adequate, and reports that another additional battalion had been sent from Egypt are without foundation.

Honourable Members have no doubt seen in the Press that tear gas is being held in reserve by the Palestine Police for use in certain contingencies in suppression of civil disorder. In making this announcement for general information the High Commissioner has issued the following statement :-

"This vapour is not lethal and is entirely harmless, producing no ill-effects beyond a temporary disablement. Its employment can in no case cause permanent injury of any kind.

"In authorising the use of this vapour, should occasion arise, His Excellency the High Commissioner has been

prompted

prompted by a desire to avoid as far as possible the necessity for employing measures for preservation of law and order that might result in loss of life or serious injury."

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Extract from Official Report of
26th May, 1936.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER FLETCHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any statement to make on the situation in Palestine; whether he has any indication as yet as to how the announcement of a Royal Commission has been received by the Jewish and Arab leaders; what the terms of reference to this commission will be; and when its personnel will be announced?

MR. M. MacDONALD: A state of unrest accompanied by sporadic acts of violence still continues in Palestine. Hon. Members will have seen reports in this morning's Press to the effect that the most serious disturbances which have taken place occurred in Gaza yesterday. I am glad to say that order has been restored there. In addition to other measures the High Commissioner has taken steps to restrict the movements of agitators and strike leaders. Authority was given earlier in the year for increases in the British and in the Palestinian sections of the police, and the High Commissioner has recently authorised the enrolment of a number of ex-constables as supernumerary police.

As the hon. Members are aware, the military garrison has been substantially reinforced since the outbreak of unrest. With regard to the appointment of a Royal Commission after order has been restored, there is no reason to suppose that this will not be generally acceptable. It is not yet possible to make any statement about the terms of reference or the personnel of the commission.

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Extract from Official Report of
26th May, 1936.

ARAB UNREST.

MR. CREECH JONES asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information concerning the activities of the Supreme Arab Strike Committee in Palestine, which is advocating the non-payment of taxes to the Government of Palestine and enforcing the strike by means of violence; how many Arabs have been killed and wounded in consequence of their refusal to abide by the orders of the Strike Committee; and whether the said committee is recognised by the Government of Palestine?

MR. M. MacDONALD: I understand that the Arab Supreme Committee represents the principal Arab political parties in Palestine and is so regarded by the Palestine Government. My information is that the committee has hitherto endeavoured to restrain the extremist elements and has publicly discountenanced violent measures. I have no information as to any Arabs having been killed or wounded for refusal to abide by the orders of the Supreme Committee or of the Strike Committee.

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(16)

Extract from Official Report of
26th May, 1936.

SIR P. HARRIS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can make any statement about the situation in Palestine; whether order has been re-established; and how far the local police has been strengthened to deal with the Arab unrest in that territory?

MR. M. MacDONALD: A state of unrest accompanied by sporadic acts of violence still continues in Palestine. Hon. Members will have seen reports in this morning's Press to the effect that the most serious disturbances which have taken place occurred in Gaza yesterday. I am glad to say that order has been restored there. In addition to other measures the High Commissioner has taken steps to restrict the movements of agitators and strike leaders. Authority was given earlier in the year for increases in the British and in the Palestinian sections of the police, and the High Commissioner has recently authorised the enrolment of a number of ex-constables as supernumerary police.

As the hon. Members are aware, the military garrison has been substantially reinforced since the outbreak of unrest. With regard to the appointment of a Royal Commission after order has been restored, there is no reason to suppose that this will not be generally acceptable. It is not yet possible to make any statement about the terms of reference or the personnel of the commission.

(S.D.F.)
(14)

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

25TH MAY 1936.

JAFFA PORT.

Captain STRICKLAND asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the disabilities which face importers resident in Tel Aviv who import goods via Jaffa, where there is only an open road and no adequate harbour; and whether, in view of the fact that this disability is leading to increased and unnecessary congestion at the port of Haifa, he will give early consideration to the proposals for providing additional and adequate port accommodation at Tel Aviv itself?

Mr. M. MacDONALD: It is a fact that conditions at the port of Jaffa have been unsatisfactory and that the difficulties are temporarily increased at the present time by the Arab strike. An extensive improvement scheme is expected to reach completion by the end of the current year and plans which have been prepared for a large extension of the accommodation at Haifa will be carried out as funds become available. There is no reason to suppose that the needs of the situation cannot be met by the improvements and extensions which are being carried out or are in contemplation at Jaffa and Haifa.

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 20TH MAY, 1936.

PALESTINE.

ARAB DEPUTATION.

26. MR. V. ADAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any statement to make about his forthcoming conversations with representatives of the Arab community in Palestine?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J.H. Thomas): I would invite my hon Friend's attention to the reply which I gave on Monday, 18th May, to the question by the hon. Member for Ince (Mr. G. Macdonald).

MR. ADAMS: I am not quite clear from these replies, and, therefore, can the right hon. Gentleman say whether they meant that there is not, in fact, to be an Arab delegation to London?

MR. THOMAS: Yes, Sir, I made that perfectly clear in that answer.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 20 MAY 1936.

MUFTI OF JERUSALEM.

29. Mr. MORGAN asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the Mufti of Jerusalem, whose salary is paid by the Palestine Treasury, is a member of the Arab general strike committee, and is actively organising the continuation and extension of the strike in the ports, on the railways, and in the Government services generally; and what action does the Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. J.H. THOMAS: It is the fact that, in his capacity as President of the Supreme Moslem Council, the Mufti of Jerusalem receives a salary from Palestine Government funds. I have no doubt that if the High Commissioner considers that the political activities of any individual in Palestine are such as to call for special action, he will advise me accordingly.

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF 18 MAY, 1936.

PALESTINE UNREST (ROYAL COMMISSION).

41. Mr. GORDON MACDONALD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what steps are being taken to inform the Arab leaders in Palestine that His Majesty's Government will not be diverted from carrying out the mandate by violence or threats of violence?

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (MR. J. H. Thomas): The High Commissioner has made the attitude of His Majesty's Government quite clear to the Arab leaders in Palestine. I wish to take this opportunity to state that His Majesty's Government have been giving earnest consideration to the situation in Palestine resulting from the recent disturbances and the continuing state of unrest. The first necessity is the re-establishment of civil order, and the High Commissioner is taking all necessary steps to this end. Subject to this, His Majesty's Government have decided that the suggested Arab deputation to London would no longer meet the conditions which have arisen, and that instead it is desirable that an inquiry on the spot should be undertaken. They have, therefore, decided, after order is restored, to appoint a Royal Commission which, without bringing into question the terms of the mandate will investigate causes of unrest and alleged grievances either of Arabs or of Jews.

Mr. LUNN: Does that answer mean that an Arab delegation is not now possible?

Mr. THOMAS: No. It means that it is not looked upon as desirable for them to send a delegation. The first condition

condition that His Majesty's Government have laid down before there can be any Commission is that law and order must be restored.

Earl WINTERTON: Am I to understand my right hon. Friend to mean, when he says that they will not be at liberty to consider the terms of the Mandate, that it will not be open to the Royal Commission to consider the extent to which the Mandate is or is not being carried out?

Mr. THOMAS: The Royal Commission will be in a position to say whether the Mandate is being fairly interpreted, but it is not open to the Royal Commission to question the Mandate itself.

Mr. ATTLEE: Was the decision to appoint a Royal Commission taken after consulting the leaders of both communities and, if so, can the right hon. Gentleman say whether the leaders of both communities wished this Commission to be set up?

Mr. THOMAS: No, Sir; the decision was taken by the Government without consultation with the leaders of either community.

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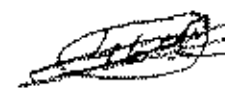
EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
13TH MAY, 1936.

37. MR. HARDIE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the fact that Arab members of the boy scouts movement in Palestine, wearing the uniform of that organisation, are being allowed to advocate openly violence against the Jewish community in the towns and villages of Palestine, and that Government officials connected with the education department of Palestine hold responsible positions in the boy scout organisation; and what steps he will take to prevent this boy scout movement being used in these illegal acts?

MR. THOMAS: I am aware that there is a movement in Palestine for the promotion, for political purposes, of unauthorised juvenile associations. These, however, are entirely distinct from the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts Association, in which the director of education is the county commissioner for scouts in Palestine. The question of the control of unauthorised scout movements is one which has already been under the consideration of the High Commissioner, and I have no doubt that he will consult me if, in his opinion, the powers at present possessed by the police have proved inadequate to deal with subversive acts arising out of this movement.

MR. HARDIE: Has the right hon. Gentleman had from the Commissioner any information to form a basis of what is stated in the question as to the type of boy scout movement and the organisation behind, including the officials of what is called the education department?

MR. THOMAS:



MR. THOMAS: While I have no definite information, I have no hesitation in saying that it would be a profound mistake to associate this form of scout movement with the Baden-Powell scout movement. So far as I know, nothing would justify my saying that the boy scout movement, as we understand it in this country, could be associated with this movement.

LIEUT-COLONEL MOORE: On a point of Order. Is there anything in the rules and regulations of the House which can prevent Members making these unsupported allegations against a movement which has world-wide respect and admiration?

MR. HARDIE: Further to that point of Order. I would point out that my question is not attacking what the hon. and gallant Member refers to, but is asking for information in regard to something else in the name of boy scouts. If the hon. and gallant Member will get a little more information about the subject he will not make those interruptions.

MR. SHINWELL: Is it in order for one hon. Member to make allegations against another hon. Member?

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EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

13TH MAY, 1936.

DISTURBANCES.

36. MR. HARDIE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the dangerous development of Arab hostility which has occurred in the Zichron Yaagov district of Palestine; is he aware that such is a danger to life; and can he give an assurance that adequate steps will be taken for the protection of those concerned?

MR. J.H. THOMAS: As I have already stated, there is a possibility of further disorders in Palestine, and the garrison has been reinforced in the last few days. I am sure that the High Commissioner can be relied on to take all possible measures for protection of life and property.

MR. SHINWELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman able to say whether this strife is being promoted by Italian and German emissaries?

MR. THOMAS: It would be very difficult to say who are responsible for causing strife and disorder of any kind. It would be unwise for me to indicate, unless I had absolute proof, the origin that is even assumed, and therefore I do not propose to do so, but I do desire to say to the House that, as far as the Government are concerned, whatever or whoever may be responsible for these difficulties, the Government are determined to maintain law and order.

MR. SHINWELL:

MR. SHINWELL: Is it not important that the right hon. Gentleman should ascertain who are responsible for the present strife?

MR. THOMAS: Certainly, and if it were possible always to bring home who were responsible it would be easier than relying upon gossip and malicious statements.

Several HON. MEMBERS rose -

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot have a debate on all these questions.

(8)

AIR MAIL

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF
13TH MAY, 1936.

PALESTINE (RIOTS).

MAJOR PROCTER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies the total number of arrests made during the recent rioting in Palestine?

MR. THOMAS: The High Commissioner had reported that the number of arrests is over 600. I cannot give exact figures, but the great majority of persons arrested have been Arabs.

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

11TH MAY, 1936.

PALESTINE (DISTURBANCES)

44. SIR P. HARRIS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any statement to make on the riots in Palestine; whether troops have been sent from Egypt to deal with same; and what is the most recent information on the situation?

SIR G. PENNY: I have been asked to reply. Some minor breaches of the peace have been reported since the statement which my right hon. Friend made on 6th May, and the Arab strike continues. As a precautionary measure the Palestine garrison has been temporarily reinforced.

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Extract from Official Report of 6th May, 1936.

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20. LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER FLETCHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any statement to make regarding the riots in Palestine, and especially as to their under-lying cause?

MR. THOMAS: According to the latest information which I have received from the High Commissioner for Palestine, the situation remains generally quiet, although there have been some isolated incidents. The Arab strike has now lasted for two weeks, and in spite of heavy losses incurred by Arab traders and transport workers is even more general now than a week ago, and there is a possibility that the strike may lead to further disorders. The Arab Trans-port Strike Committee has now published a manifesto urging that Government officials should cease work. The High Commissioner has initiated legal proceedings against the President and Vice-President of the Committee. I believe that the underlying cause of the disturbances is Arab discontent, and I understand that the Arabs have threatened to continue the strike until Jewish immigration is stopped. As I said on 23rd April, His Majesty's Government will not be deflected from their policy by riots or threats of any kind, and there is no question of Government stopping Jewish immigration in consequence of the strike. I recently invited the Arab leaders to send a deputation to state their case to me, and I feel sure that they will themselves realise that if they adopt that procedure for bringing their grievances to the notice of His

Majesty's

Majesty's Government they will receive here a full and impartial hearing.

COMMANDER LOCKER-LAMPSON: Are these riots in any way subsidised from Germany?

MR. THOMAS: I have no information, but it was necessary to emphasise, in view of the threats that the High Commissioner intends to maintain law and order, and has been authorised by the Government to say that he must not be intimidated by threats of any kind.

MR. BELLENGER: Is the right hon. Gentleman in a position to give a categorical denial to the insinuation which has been made by the hon. and gallant Member for Handsworth (Commander Locker-Lampson)?

MR. THOMAS: I have already said I have no information. That is the best answer that I can possibly give.

Extract from Official Report of 6th May, 1936.

PALESTINE (DISTURBANCES)

21. MR. GRAHAM WHITE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies the extent to which propaganda from Italian or other outside sources has been the cause of the recent disturbances in Palestine?

MR. J. H. THOMAS: I have no information to show that the recent disturbances in Palestine were caused by propaganda from outside sources.

Extract from Official Report of 5th May, 1936.

JAFFA (DISTURBANCES)

CAPTAIN CAZALET asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any further statement to make regarding the disturbances in Jaffa on Sunday the 19th April; in particular, whether the High Commissioner has issued any statement in connection therewith; and, if so, what were its contents?

MR. THOMAS: The statement which I circulated in the OFFICIAL REPORT on 23rd April contains such information regarding the events of Sunday, the 19th April, as was then available. I have since received the text of the communiqué issued by the High Commissioner on that day.

The following is the statement:-

"The High Commissioner regrets to announce that disturbances occurred in Jaffa this morning involving several casualties. Owing to false rumours (which were at once officially contradicted) that Arabs had been killed crowds assembled about 11 o'clock in the Manshia quarter of Jaffa and disturbances arose in the course of which several attacks were made on Jews. The police intervened promptly and by early afternoon order was restored and the situation was completely under control.

The casualties so far as is known were as follows:- Seven Jews were killed, 11 seriously injured, and 28 slightly injured. Two Arabs were killed, one seriously injured and 14 slightly injured.

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Three rounds in all were fired under direct control of superior police officers after due warning had been given, one round when the crowd refused to disperse and two rounds in order to stop a murderous assault actually in progress. The death of two Arabs mentioned above as killed resulted from these shots.

As a precautionary measure the Defence Order-in-Council has been proclaimed empowering the High Commissioner to put emergency regulations into operation and a curfew regulation has accordingly been imposed at Jaffa and Tel-Aviv requiring inhabitants to be within doors between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. No incidents are reported from any other part of the country".

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Extract from Official Report of
29th April, 1936.

MR. DENVILLE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the fact that the Arabs are finding it difficult to form a delegation to visit London in connection with the suggested Palestine legislative council owing to the Grand Mufti's hostility to the proposal, he will consider withdrawing the invitation?

MR. THOMAS: I understand that the leaders of the Arab parties in Palestine have informed the High Commissioner that they do not think that it would be in the public interest for the proposed deputation to come to London at this moment. I see no reason for considering the suggestion made by my hon. Friend.

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AIR MAIL

Extract from Official Report of
29th April, 1936.

21. MR. MARCUS SAMUEL asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will take the opportunity of the visit of the Arab delegates from Palestine to England to bring the Arabs and Jews together at a round-table conference?

27. MR. HALL-CAINE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in connection with the forthcoming visit of the Palestine-Arab delegation to this country, he will consider the desirability of setting up a round-table conference of representatives of every interest in Palestine with a view to evolving a constitution which will provide a permanent and satisfactory settlement for that mandated territory?

MR. J.H. THOMAS: The object with which the Arab leaders in Palestine have been invited to this country is that they may have an opportunity of stating their case to His Majesty's Government, and it will be appreciated that, until I have received and considered their representations, I am not in a position to make any further statement.

MR. SAMUEL: When does my right hon. Friend assume that these arrangements will be finished?

MR. THOMAS: The difficulty, unfortunately, in Palestine at the moment is delaying the leaving of the Arab deputation. Therefore, obviously I could not say when they are coming.

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Extract from Official Report of
22nd April, 1936.

CONSTITUTION.

17. MR. HALL-CAINE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what is to be the nature of the negotiations with the Arab delegates from Palestine who are coming to this country to discuss the legislative council; and whether he can give an undertaking that no commitment as to the setting up of such council will be entered into without the approval of Parliament?

18. MR. V. ADAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any statement to make about his conferences with Arab Leaders on the proposed new constitution of Palestine?

MR. J.H. THOMAS: I am not in a position to add anything to the reply which I gave to the right hon. Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme (Colonel Wedgwood) on 8th April. I hope, however, to be able to make a statement after I have received the Arab deputation and considered their representations.

MR. ADAMS: Can my right hon. Friend say whether the Arab delegation has started from Palestine?

MR. THOMAS: No, Sir.